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PRESS RELEASE

**ROBERT ALAN RAWLINGS SENTENCED TO TERM OF 17 YEARS FOR DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE**

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Yesterday, following a sentencing hearing, Robert Alan Rawlings was sentenced to a state prison term of 17 years and 8 months as the penalty for two assaults he committed on his then girlfriend.

Judge James Ruggiero sentenced Mr. Rawlings for attempted Aggravated Mayhem, Felony Assault, Inducing False testimony, Corporal Injury to a Cohabitant, Felony False Imprisonment, causing Great Bodily Injury and Committing a Criminal offense while on Bail, for a total of 17 years and 8 Months.

Mr. Rawlings, having previously pled, requested a hearing in which he maintained that his violent actions were caused by his use of drugs and alcohol.

On the evening of April 22, 2006, Shasta County Sheriff's deputies Tom Moon and Michael Orner were dispatched to the Victim's home in Redding on a report of the Victim being assaulted and held against her will by the Mr. Rawlings. During the assault he refused to let the Victim leave and grabbed her, throwing her to the floor and slapping her repeatedly. He stated he had to "break her like a horse" and that Victim needed to be "disciplined like a child". He was arrested and later posted bail.

On the morning of September 6, 2006, while still on bail, Mr. Rawlings assaulted the same Victim. The Victim fled the home and called 9-1-1 from a neighbor's home. When Deputies arrived at her home they observed blood on the bed, floor, clumps of hair, smeared bloodstains, and blood on a couch. The Victim was interviewed at Mercy Hospital where Deputies observed her face was extremely swollen, her eyes were swollen almost completely shut, and she had extensive bruising all over her body.

Deputies learned that Mr. Rawlings attacked the Victim over a 7 hour time period, repeatedly telling her to change her testimony in his prior case. Mr. Rawlings also strangled the victim until she passed out. During the sentencing hearing it was revealed that Mr. Rawlings had assaulted the Victim in 2004 as well, leaving her with two black eyes.

Detectives John Zufall and Steve Grashoff of the County Sheriff's Office were the lead investigators on the case. Victim Advocates were Deborah McKinnon and Angela Mellis. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Eric Anderson.