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COUNTY OF SHASTA

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Domestic Violence Defendant Sentenced to 11 Years in Prison

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Branden Gagnon Sentenced to 11 Years in Prison for Strangulation Domestic Violence

Today, following a sentencing hearing, Branden Gagnon was sentenced to 11 years in state prison by the Honorable Stephen Baker. This sentencing followed Gagnon's April conviction for multiple counts of domestic violence involving a single victim.

The victim provided a statement at the hearing, recounting her years of abuse at the hands of Gagnon, and urging Judge Baker to impose the maximum sentence.

In handing down the sentence, Judge Baker cited the serious nature of the crimes, noting that the victim nearly died as a result of Gagnon's actions.

At the trial, the jury heard evidence that in the early morning hours of January 21, 2013, the defendant argued with the victim outside their residence off of Highway 273 in unincorporated Shasta County. During this argument, Gagnon knocked the victim to the ground and dragged her into the home. Inside, he strangled her with a length of wire, rendering her unconscious and nearly causing her death. Gagnon then called 911 to report that he had found the victim hanging in the house from an alleged suicide attempt.

The victim, upon regaining consciousness, denied attempting suicide, and further investigation by law enforcement showed the implausibility of the suicide theory. When interviewed by a sheriff's detective, Gagnon admitted to knocking the victim down and dragging her into the house, but denied any involvement in her strangulation.

In total, Gagnon was convicted of six felonies based upon two incidents: assault with a deadly weapon, criminal threats, false imprisonment by violence, kidnapping, and two counts of corporal injury to a spouse/cohabitant. The jury also found true an allegation that Gagnon personally inflicted great bodily injury in the commission of domestic violence. This allegation was based upon his strangulation of the victim with the wire.

Due to the violent nature of the crimes, Gagnon will be required to serve 85 percent of his sentence before he is eligible for parole.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Deputy District Attorney Benjamin Hanna of the Shasta County District Attorney's Office. District Attorney Investigator Mike Wallace was the lead investigator on the case. Robyn Reger of the Crime Victim Assistance Center assisted the victim throughout the trial process.