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ELGIN MAN GETS 7-YEAR PRISON TERM FOR SEVERELY BEATING GIRLFRIEND

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An Elgin man with a long history of violence has been sentenced to prison for severely beating his girlfriend.

Quinzeric D. Span, 34 (d.o.b. 6-25-1978), of the 400 block of East Chicago Street, Elgin, was sentenced late Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012, by Circuit Judge Timothy Q. Sheldon to seven years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

On Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2012, Span pleaded guilty to one count of aggravated domestic battery, a Class 2 felony. His guilty plea came the day after his trial in the case began.

Shortly before 2 p.m. April 18, 2011, Span and the victim began to argue at an unknown house in Elgin. Span grabbed the victim by the shirt and punched her in the face, then forced her to get into a car driven by a third party. In the car, Span continued to punch the victim in the face as she tried to fight him off. The car stopped near the intersection of North Grove Avenue and Seneca Street in Elgin, and the victim escaped and called 911. The defendant and driver fled.

Responding officers described a golf ball-sized lump near the victim's right eye. The victim was taken by ambulance to Sherman Hospital, where she was treated for a broken orbital bone and perforated eardrum, the result of blunt-force trauma to her face.

At the time of this incident, Span was wanted on a 2010 warrant for felony charges of aggravated battery to a pregnant person and domestic battery with a separate victim. On July 23, 2012, Span agreed to a sentence of three years in prison in exchange for a guilty plea to domestic battery, a Class 4 felony, in the 2010 case.

During the Nov. 29 sentencing hearing for the 2011 beating, prosecutors presented evidence to show that on multiple occasions in the 2011 case Span repeatedly contacted the victim from prison or jail and attempted to coerce or threaten her to not testify against him or appear in court, including the day before the trial was set to begin. After Span pleaded guilty Oct. 16, Span placed 453 telephone calls to his victim from the Kane County jail despite a court order that prohibited him from doing so.

Also during the Nov. 29 hearing, prosecutors presented to the court Span's criminal history, which includes a 1994 juvenile adjudication for battery, a 1998 conviction for felony mob action, a 1998 conviction for aggravated battery to a peace officer, a 2000 conviction for felony cocaine delivery, a 2004 conviction for domestic battery with bodily harm, a 2006 conviction for unlawful delivery of a lookalike substance purported to be cocaine, and a 2008 conviction for felony marijuana possession.

In the last 12 years, Span has been free of the custody of authorities for only three years. In the last nine years, four victims have filed domestic violence related complaints against Span.

According to Illinois law, Span must serve at least 85 percent of the sentence. The sentence is to be served consecutive to the sentence he received July 23. Upon his release from prison, Span must serve a term of four years of Mandatory Supervised Release, formerly known as parole.

"Mr. Span shows all of the signs of the classic domestic abuser," Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said. "He has beaten numerous victims, he has apologized to them, and he has intimidated them. He has done it repeatedly. That cycle of violence is how we know that, without intervention, Mr. Span will abuse again. Prison not only protects society from Mr. Span, it presents an opportunity to Mr. Span to learn how to stop being a serial domestic abuser.

"Thanks to Elgin Police Officer Jordan Rapacz, who helped bring Mr. Span to justice, and to Nina Jones at the Kane County jail for her invaluable assistance in tracking Mr. Span's telephone calls to the victim. Thanks also to Kane County Assistant State's Attorneys Christina Wascher and Andrew Whitfield, who prosecuted this case."