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ELGIN MAN FACES MANDATORY PRISON TERM AFTER PLEADING GUILTY TO SEVERELY BEATING GIRLFRIEND DEFENDANT'S ATTEMPTS TO INTIMIDATE VICTIM TO NOT TESTIFY ARE THWARTED

October 17, 2012

An Elgin man has pleaded guilty to severely beating his girlfriend, less than a day after his trial in the case began.

Quinzeric D. Span, 34 (d.o.b. 6-25-1978), of the 400 block of East Chicago Street, Elgin, on Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2012, pleaded guilty to one count of aggravated domestic battery, a Class 2 felony.

Circuit Judge Timothy Q. Sheldon accepted the plea and set Span's next court appearance for 1:15 p.m. Nov. 29, 2012, in Courtroom 319, for sentencing. Span faces a maximum term of 30 years in prison.

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 a 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. Trial dates for the 2010 case had been set multiple times but that victim had declined to cooperate with authorities. Just before the trial was to begin in the 2010 case, Span posted bond and was released from jail and then failed to appear in court for the trial. Because he failed to appear for his trial, a new warrant was issued.

After the April 18, 2011, incident, a second warrant then was issued for Span's arrest, but he remained on the lam for a year before he was found and taken into

custody. When he appeared at bond call, the judge ordered Span not to have contact, direct or indirect, with the victim in the 2011 case. At the Kane County jail, Span's first telephone call was to the victim. During the call Span acknowledged that he had beaten the victim, that she was screaming while he was beating her and that he felt bad while he was beating her.

With Span in custody, the trial date in the 2010 case was re-set. The victim in that case had been served with a subpoena to testify. However, she failed to appear for the June 25, 2012, trial, and a new trial date was set for July 23, 2012.

On July 17, 2012, prosecutors presented to the court evidence that on multiple occasions Span had contacted the 2010 victim – directly and through third parties – to attempt to coerce her not to appear for the trial and not to cooperate in his prosecution. At one point, Span offered to buy the victim a new cellular telephone with a new telephone number so prosecutors would be unable to find her to serve her with notice of the trial.

As the trial was set to begin on July 23, 2012, Span saw the victim in the courtroom and immediately agreed to plead guilty. He agreed to a sentence of three years in the Illinois Department of Corrections with four years of mandatory supervised release (parole) in exchange for a guilty plea to domestic battery, a Class 4 felony. Judge Sheldon accepted the plea, and then set an Oct. 15, 2012, date for the trial in the 2011 case.

Early Monday, Oct. 15, 2012, the victim failed to appear for the trial and the judge issued a warrant for her arrest for contempt of court. Before jury selection began, Judge Sheldon granted a motion by prosecutors to allow the victim's statements to other persons about the incident to be presented as evidence without the need for the victim to testify. During the hearing, prosecutors presented as evidence Span's repeated telephone calls from prison to the victim in which Span would tell the victim to lie in her testimony about how she was injured, or to not cooperate with prosecutors or to not be present for the trial. Judge Sheldon agreed that Span's unlawful actions had prompted the victim not to cooperate.

The trial began late Monday without the victim present. After the trial recessed Monday, prosecutors learned of Span's repeated telephone calls to the victim since returning to the Kane County jail from prison Oct. 4. Transcripts of those calls were made available to the court Tuesday. In the calls, Span again suggested that the victim tell a different story about how she was injured, decline to testify or fail to appear in court. Span also told the victim that he loved her and that they could resume their lives together if she cooperated with him. In attempt to hide his contact with the victim, Span would use the identification numbers of other inmates when he placed the calls.

The victim was served with the warrant Monday night and was present Tuesday when the trial was set to continue. When Span saw the victim in custody, he immediately asked to plead guilty to the charges.

At the Nov. 29, 2012, hearing, Span faces a sentence of between six and 30 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The sentence would be served consecutive to the sentence in the 2010 incident that Span currently is serving. The sentencing

range in this case is enhanced because of Span's extensive criminal history. In addition to the prior domestic abuse convictions, Span has multiple felony narcotics convictions.

"It is probably fate that this violent serial domestic abuser went to trial during Domestic Violence Awareness Month," Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said. "Mr. Span has repeatedly shown all of the signs of the classic domestic abuser, and he has done it with numerous victims. He beats them, apologizes, tells them he loves them and then intimidates them to not testify against him. And then he does it all over again. That is the cycle of violence, and that is what the community must recognize if we are to end domestic abuse. History tells us that Mr. Span will abuse again.

"My 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. Special thanks also goes to Kane County Assistant State's Attorneys Christina Wascher and Andrew Whitfield, whose tireless preparation for this trial included reviewing hundreds of hours of Mr. Span's phone calls to his victims. Their perseverance helped ensure that the community could be safe from Mr. Span's violence."