

Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



JOSEPH H. McMAHON

State's Attorney

Kane County Judicial Center
37W777 Route 38 Suite 300
St. Charles, Illinois 60175

General Offices: (630) 232-3500
Contact:
Christopher Nelson (630) 232-3500

KANSAS MAN CONVICTED OF STALKING, BEATING WOMAN IN ELGIN

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A Kansas man has been convicted of stalking his girlfriend to Elgin and choking her when she refused to return to Kansas with him.

Blake C. Durbin, 45 (d.o.b. 2-11-1967), of the 10000 block of West Hearth Stone Street, Maize, Kan., was convicted late Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2012, by a Kane County jury, of one count of aggravated domestic battery, a Class 2 felony, two counts of aggravated battery in a public place, each a Class 3 felony, two counts of stalking, each a Class 4 felony, and two counts of domestic battery, each a Class A misdemeanor.

The jury deliberated for about two hours before it reached its verdict.

In June 2012, the victim left her home in Wichita, Kan., to escape Durbin, with whom she'd had an intimate relationship until he began to physically and psychologically abuse her. The victim traveled to Elgin to stay with a friend who had promised to help her. Durbin previously had given the victim a cellular telephone, and without the victim's knowledge had turned on the phone's Global Positioning System function. Durbin used the GPS to track the victim's location. When he arrived in Elgin, Durbin tried unsuccessfully for days to meet with the victim. Durbin had stopped at the Community Crisis Center domestic violence shelter and told workers there he was searching for the victim. Durbin also left several telephone messages at the home where the victim was staying.

On July 9, 2012, Durbin drove to the home on the southeast side of Elgin where the victim was staying. Because children were inside, the victim went outside to talk with the victim and eventually agreed to get in the car and talk with him. Durbin became angry with the victim during the conversation, and when the victim attempted to leave his car, he placed his hands around her neck until she was unable to breathe. Durbin also threatened to stab the victim in the ribs. The victim's friend, having seen the strangulation, rushed outside to help her. Both women ran back into the home, and Durbin left.

Durbin continued to call the victim, and the morning of July 10, 2012, he drove past the home several times before he exited the car and began to shout at the home's

occupants. The victim then called the police. Durbin then fled, but continued to place telephone calls to the victim. Police eventually found Durbin at a nearby park and took him into custody. Durbin admitted to police that he had used GPS to track the victim.

Associate Judge Allen M. Anderson set Durbin's next court appearance for 9 a.m. Dec. 19, 2012, for post-trial motions and sentencing. Durbin faces a sentence of between three and 14 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Durbin had been held in the Kane county jail on \$1 million bail. Bond was revoked upon conviction.

"This case is an example of a domestic abuser who sees his partner as a possession and not a person. My thanks to the jury for seeing the facts as they are. This guilty verdict marks a fitting end to Domestic Violence Awareness Month," Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said.

"Special thanks to Kathleen McCadam, a domestic violence victim advocate in our office. Her heady work early in this case helped assure that the victim would be safe from Mr. Durbin. My thanks also to Elgin Police Det. Scott St. John for his diligent work . And thanks also to Kane County Assistant State's Attorneys Jamie Mosser and Megan Matuska, who prosecuted the case."