

Carl Donovan Allen Sentenced to 2.75 Years in Prison for Aggravated Assault and Kidnapping

By: Cecilia Defino

PHOENIX - On November 6, 30-year-old Carl Donovan Allen was sentenced to 2.75 years in prison after being convicted on one count of aggravated assault and one count of kidnapping. Allen was sentenced in Maricopa County Superior Court following his guilty plea on Oct. 3, 2024.

The offense of aggravated assault took place on Nov. 1, 2023. According to the Plea Agreement document, Allen acknowledged the existence of his prior felony conviction. Kidnapping, a class 2 Felony, was committed on September 15, 2014, and Allen was then convicted on April 30, 2015. Allen was previously convicted of a felony within the ten years immediately preceding the date of the offense.

During the trial, the defense argued that Allen was going through a difficult time. The lawyer representing Allen was Jocquese Blackwell. When speaking to the Judge, Todd F. Lang, Blackwell said he wanted to provide insight.

“Based on my conversation with my client, he has been more than remorseful about what happened,” said Blackwell. “Mr. Allen had just received information that his mom had passed.”

In Allen’s mitigation plea, he talked about how his mother’s death clouded his mind and he felt as though he “lost everything.” Allen said how he had other factors contributing to why he committed the crimes.

“Prior to my arrest, I suffered from ADHD, Bipolar, Depression, and I self-medicated with drugs and alcohol for years,” said Allen. “Now, with self-reflection, hard work, and patience, I’ve been sober for 10 years and 2 months.”

After hearing of his mother’s loss, Allen struck an officer in jail. Blackwell referenced the incident in the mitigation plea, explaining how his mother’s passing influenced Allen’s actions.

There were several aggravating circumstances that were taken into consideration in Allen’s conviction. According to the State’s Allegation of Aggravating Circumstances document, Allen caused physical, emotional, and financial harm to the victim. In the document, it repeatedly said that Allen has a “lengthy criminal history.”

The document also stated that Allen used more force than necessary to commit the offenses, as well as caused the victim severe or extreme pain due to the way he assaulted the victim.

“The present offense is a violent offense. He caused physical injuries to the victim,” said Judge Lang.

Allen’s original sentence to serve in prison was 3.75 years. Judge Lang lowered his sentence after hearing his mitigation plea. He said there was enough there for a sentence of 3.75 years but felt that was “excessive.” Judge Lang said Allen is “clearly a sharp guy.”

“We’ve all lost our cool when we’ve lost somebody,” said Judge Lang.

Allen also addressed the victim and apologized for his actions, in which case he said he takes “full responsibility.” Judge Lang also asked Allen about how his behavior has been while being in jail, and Allen said there has been no problems.

Judge Lang said in his closing statements that Allen has accepted responsibility and that his statement was thoughtful. Taking into consideration Allen’s mitigation plea and his completion of two anger management courses and behavioral therapy, Judge Lang reduced his sentence.

“He’s not simply saying sorry...he has a plan,” said Judge Lang. “He has room for some improvement.”

Sources:

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