

**GINGER BOWDEN MADDEN
STATE ATTORNEY**



**OFFICE OF
STATE ATTORNEY
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA**

March 14, 2023

ESCAMBIA COUNTY
190 W Government St
Pensacola, FL 32591
(850) 595-4200

PRESS RELEASE

(Escambia County, Florida) On March 9, 2023, Circuit Court Judge Coleman Lee Robinson sentenced Billy Ray Smith Jr. to Life in Florida's Department of Corrections on charges of Burglary with an Assault or Battery, Sexual Battery with a Weapon, Armed Kidnapping, Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Grand Theft Auto, Theft of a Credit Card, Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card, Petit Theft, and Battery.

SANTA ROSA COUNTY
6495 Caroline St
Suite S
Milton, FL 32570
(850) 981-5500

The incident took place on August 19, 2021, when the Defendant entered the victim's house while she was asleep. The Defendant sexually battered the victim, struck her in the head multiple times, and duct taped her to a chair. The Defendant ransacked the victim's home and left with her car and personal belongings. The victim was able to free herself and run to a neighbor in order to contact law enforcement for help.

OKALOOSA COUNTY
1804 Lewis Turner Blvd
Suite 100
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547
(850) 651-7260

WALTON COUNTY
524 Hwy 90 East
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435
(850) 892-8080

Assistant State Attorney Jessica Etherton presented the case to a jury on January 12, 2023, on behalf of Ginger Bowden Madden, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida. Assistant State Attorney John Bennett Traylor handled the sentencing hearing. For further information, please contact Mr. Traylor at 850-595-4200.