

GINGER BOWDEN MADDEN
STATE ATTORNEY



OFFICE OF
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FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

January 18, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

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(Escambia County, Florida) On January 12, 2023, Billy Ray Smith, Jr. was found guilty by an Escambia County jury for the crimes of Burglary of a Dwelling with a Battery, Sexual Battery with a Deadly 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.

On August 18, 2021, the Defendant entered the victim's home on Chemstrand Road while she was asleep on the couch. The Defendant put a gun to her head, threatened her, demanded money, and ransacked her home. The Defendant put the victim in the trunk of her car and drove to a vacant lot, where he raped her at knife point. The Defendant used the victim's debit card and withdrew money from an ATM in the area, and then stole the victim's car, and ultimately left the victim duct taped to a chair in her bathroom. The Defendant was seen on surveillance video driving the victim's car, using her debit card, and hiding her property behind a dumpster. Fingerprint evidence linking the Defendant to the crimes was also located.

Sentencing is scheduled for March 9, 2023, before the Honorable Coleman Lee Robinson. The Defendant faces a maximum sentence of Life in prison. This case was investigated by the Escambia County Sheriff's Office and Assistant State Attorney Jessica Etherton prosecuted the case on behalf of Ginger Bowden Madden, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida. Assistant State Attorney Jessica Etherton may be reached at (850) 595-4200.