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Trenton Man Sentenced to 28 Years in Prison for Kidnapping, Sexual Assault

TRENTON – A Trenton man was sentenced to prison last week for a May 2012 rape that was caught on surveillance video, Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. reported.

Dante Picott, 20, of Trenton, was sentenced to 28 years in state prison by Mercer County Superior Court Judge Robert C. Billmeier. He will be required to serve 85 percent of that sentence before he is eligible for parole. Picott is also subject to parole supervision for life and registration as a sex offender under Megan's Law. Assistant Prosecutor Michael Mennuti prosecuted Picott and handled the sentencing for the prosecutor's Special Victims Unit.

On January 13, 2014, Picott pleaded guilty to the 10-count indictment charging kidnapping, robbery and multiple aggravated sexual assault offenses. At that time, he admitted to choking and punching the victim into unconsciousness before dragging her behind a row of bushes to conceal her from passersby. He then sexually assaulted the victim, stole the keys to her home and attempted to take any money she possessed. The assault occurred on May 2, 2012, at approximately 1:30 a.m.

The woman was taken to Capital Health Regional Medical Center, where DNA evidence was taken. Laboratory tests determined the DNA matched Picott. Surveillance video outside of an apartment building on Bellevue Avenue captured the assault, and a search of Picott's house turned up clothing and shoes that matched the description from the video.

Bocchini credited his Special Victims Unit and the Trenton Police Department for the investigation leading to Picott's arrest.

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