

Detroit man headed to prison for eight-hour abuse of girlfriend

Detroit News, The (MI) - Friday, January 16, 2009

Author: Christina Stolarz / The Detroit News

Detroit man headed to prison for eight-hour abuse of girlfriend

By Christina Stolarz

The Detroit News

MOUNT CLEMENS — A 26-year-old Detroit man accused of abusing his girlfriend over an eight hour period agreed to a plea deal that calls for him to serve at least seven years.

Marco Grant pleaded no contest to assault with intent to murder, resisting and obstructing a police officer, and assault with a dangerous weapon in connection to the September 2007 incident. Sentencing is Feb. 25 before Macomb Circuit Judge Matthew Switalski.

Four additional charges **Grant** faced were dismissed: torture, assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, unlawful imprisonment and interfering with reporting a crime.

The plea was made during a break after attorneys on both sides of the case questioned prospective jurors all day long. Switalski told the packed courtroom that their presence sometimes spurs a plea.

"Every decision to go to trial is a constant weighing of risk management," he said.

The plea negotiations had be ongoing the past few days, said **Grant** 's defense attorney, Michael Dennis.

"It was in his best interest," Dennis said. "I believe it was overcharged initially. He accepts responsibility for some of the things he's done."

Grant initially wanted to go to trial, but changed his mind after Dennis shared some scenarios of what could happen if he did, Dennis said. Authorities say **Grant** assaulted his then 27-year-old girlfriend – and mother of his child – by beating her with a bottle and brush, dousing her with rum and trying to set her on fire.

"I think it finally dawned on him the reality and seriousness of the charges," Macomb Assistant Prosecutor Betsy Mellos said. "I'm glad he's going to prison."

Mellos said she wasn't upset that the torture charge, a life felony, was dismissed because **Grant** pleaded to another life felony: assault with intent to murder.

"I wanted a life felony. If he plead to one or the other, the outcome wouldn't have changed," she said. "He did some terrible, terrible things to the victim."

You can reach Christina Stolarz at (586) 468-0343 or cstolarz@detnews.com.

Edition: Online

Section: Metro

Record Number: det34077847

Copyright (c) The Detroit News. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Gannett Co., Inc. by NewsBank, inc.