



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



MICHAEL L. RAMSEY
District Attorney

MARK MURPHY
Chief Deputy District Attorney

JASON WINES
Chief Investigator

PRESS RELEASE

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Gearhead Barber Rapist Sentenced

The owner of the Gearhead Barbershops in Chico and Reno, Anthony Eidem, 51, was sentenced today in Butte County Superior Court for the Forcible Rape and Disruption of Computer Services he committed in 2019.

Judge Jesus Rodriguez sentenced Eidem to the upper term of eight years for the Rape conviction and imposed a consecutive eight months for the Disruption of Computer Services conviction. Eidem will also be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life and will be on parole for 20 years once released from prison.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the convictions stem from October 25, 2019 when Eidem took a 27-year-old former employee to several Chico bars and then drove her to his house where he raped her and strangled her to unconsciousness. Eidem's DNA was recovered in multiple critical areas, including the victim's throat where several bruises revealed clear evidence of the strangulation. After assaulting the victim, Eidem stole her cellular phone and went through the contents, keeping it for three months before law enforcement discovered he had the phone. A jury made up of six women and six men unanimously found him guilty on the charges and five aggravating factors on April 26, 2022.

Ramsey said Eidem read a lengthy statement in court today at his sentencing where he attempted to place blame on everyone but himself, including the investigating officer and Eidem's young roommate who helped the victim escape on the night of the rape. The trial prosecutor, Supervising Deputy District Attorney Leah Sears, responded to the judge that Eidem's statement revealed precisely "who he is and always has been – a delusional narcissist who refuses to take responsibility for the brutal rape he committed."

The prosecutor also informed the court of Eidem's recorded jail calls where he repeatedly discussed moving and hiding his assets, including his barbershop businesses, to attempt to avoid paying any restitution to the victim in the case. Ramsey said despite objections by Eidem and his attorney, the court ordered restitution be paid to the victim in the amount of \$36,516 which included the victim's lost income, moving and security expenses, and cell phone replacement.

Ramsey also said Eidem and his attorney requested that the judge allow him to post bail while he appeals the case, but that request was denied and Eidem was taken from the courtroom to be transported to state prison.

