

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Sigh found guilty in kidnapping, rape case Sentencing June 24

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A Norfolk Superior Court Jury today (June 13, 2019) found Bernard Sigh, 67, of Milton, guilty of rape, stalking, kidnapping, witness intimidation and other offenses, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

Trial Judge Robert C. Cosgrove has set sentencing for 12 noon on June 24, 2019. Jury selection began June 3, 2019 and closing arguments were given on June 12. The jury deliberated for just under a day.

"Despite the added pressure surrounding this case, among other barriers, this victim demonstrated great courage and resolve in pushing through to today's resolution," District Attorney Morrissey said. "Not every sexual assault or domestic violence victim is positioned to endure the burdens our system places on them – this victim deserves our support and gratitude."

District Attorney Morrissey also praised the Milton Police Department's investigation and the prosecution team at trial. "Assistant District Attorney Beth McLaughlin, appellate ADA Laura McLaughlin and victim/witness advocate Amanda Jenkins worked very professionally and diligently to get these facts before this jury. We thank the jury for delivering justice for this victim today."

Sigh faces a maximum of 20 years in state prison on the rape convictions and a minimum-mandatory sentence of 1 year for the conviction on stalking in violation of a 209A protective order.

JUNE 24 UPDATE:

Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth McLaughlin asked Judge Cosgrove to impose a sentence of 12 to 15 years in State Prison on the kidnapping and rape charges, and requested a CONSECUTIVE sentence of 5 to 7 years in State Prison for the Witness Intimidation conviction, with 15 years of probation supervision imposed on various other charges. Defense attorney Ethan Yankowitz asked Cosgrove to impose a sentence of 5 years in state prison followed by 3 years of probation.

Judge Cosgrove imposed concurrent sentences of 5 to 6 years on the kidnapping and rape charges, 1 to 2 years CONSECUTIVE on the Stalking conviction, and 15 years of probation on the witness intimidation and assault and battery charges.

The victim gave an impact statement.