



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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## Press Release

### Construction worker admits attacking Ex-Wife's divorce lawyer with hatchet

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A Norfolk Superior Court judge has sentenced Michael Kelly to 7 to 9 years in state prison for ambushing his ex-wife's defense attorney in a Quincy parking garage last February and striking him in the head multiple times with a hatchet, Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey announced.

Kelly, 54, had skipped a hearing at Norfolk County Probate and Family Court earlier in the day on Feb. 24, 2015 at which he was supposed to deliver \$30,000 to settle a judgment in the divorce case and begin serving a 10-day sentence. He had purchased a hatchet eight days previously at a local hardware store.

On the night of Feb. 24, he secreted himself inside the Ross parking garage in Quincy until his wife's divorce attorney, whose office is in an adjoining building, finished his day's work and was carrying materials out to his car. At that point, Kelly began attacking the attorney with the hatchet. When the victim resisted, he sprayed his face with aerosol wasp killer, then resumed striking him. He stopped the attack after a bystander called out to him that he was calling the Quincy Police.

"This was an extreme act of violence, and very clearly could have been a murder," District Attorney Morrissey said. "It is a fairly astonishing stroke of good fortune that the attorney was not hurt more severely or even killed. Lesser attacks have cost a life."

Kelly pled guilty on Sept. 30, 2015, to all four indictments against him: Armed Assault with Intent to Murder on a person over age 60; Mayhem; Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon causing serious bodily injury and Assault and Battery on a person over age 60. Assistant District Attorney Michele Armour had asked Judge Kenneth J. Fishman to sentence Kelly to 14 to 16 years in state prison. The sentencing guidelines for the lead charge in the case suggested a 5 to 7 year sentence.

"We are gratified that Judge Fishman recognized the severity of the case, the severity of this conduct, and agreed that an upward departure from the sentencing guidelines was warranted," District Attorney Morrissey said. "The Quincy Police Department put together a tight case. The victim did not waiver in supporting the prosecution. A very dangerous man is in prison."