



DenverDA

Mitchell R. Morrissey, District Attorney - Second Judicial District

201 W. Colfax Avenue, Dept. 801, Denver, CO 80202

Bus. Phone: 720-913-9000
Fax: 720-913-9035

NEWS RELEASE

August 16, 2010

Contact: Lynn Kimbrough, 720-913-9025

MAXIMUM PRISON TIME FOR ASSAULT OF AT-RISK ADULT

A man who assaulted and stole money from a disabled woman has been given the maximum prison sentence by a Denver District Court Judge today in connection with the case.

Richard Lee Straw (dob: 06-29-54) pleaded guilty earlier to *second degree assault on an at-risk adult* (F3) and *theft from an at-risk adult* (F3) and was sentenced today to 28 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections.

Denver Deputy DA Shannon O'Connor and Deputy DA Kandace Gerdes argued for the maximum sentence. Straw had been assaulting and stealing from a 60-year-old woman with a disability for several months before he was arrested and charged.

Crucial to the case was the intervention of alert bank employees who contacted the Denver District Attorney's Office with their suspicions that their client was being victimized. The attention of bank staff and the combined efforts of the Denver DA's Office Economic Crime Unit and Family Violence Unit resulted in the earlier guilty plea and today's sentencing.