



NEWS RELEASE –

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**JURY CONVICTS FORMER UCD STUDENT IN 2015 CAMPUS
KIDNAP/SEX ASSAULT CASE**

A Denver District Court jury returned a verdict late last Friday in the kidnapping and sexual assault of a University of Colorado-Denver student by another student in the fall of 2015.

John D. Kennedy (dob: 03-11-1994) was convicted after a six-day trial on all charges tried: one count of *second degree kidnapping-victim of a sexual offense* (F2), one count of *sexual assault-victim physically helpless* (F3), one count of *sexual assault-victim incapable of appraising nature of her conduct* (F4), and one count of *unlawful sexual contact* (M1). Initial charges were filed on November 6, 2015.

On November 1, 2015, Kennedy, a student on the Auraria Campus, sexually assaulted the 23-year-old victim, a fellow student, while she was unconscious following a night of celebrating Halloween. After waiting until the other students had left a shared hallway, the defendant carried the unconscious victim from one apartment--where she had been placed for safety by friends—to his apartment. When the victim was discovered missing, a friend of the victim found her and Kennedy in his apartment. At that time, the victim was unaware she had been moved and was unaware she had been sexually assaulted. She did not consent to any sexual contact. The next day, building surveillance footage was discovered showing Kennedy carrying the unconscious victim down the hallway. The police were notified and the victim went to Denver Health for a sexual assault examination. DNA evidence, witness statements, plus the defendant's own confession ultimately established that Kennedy had kidnapped and sexually assaulted the victim.

Sentencing is scheduled for September 18, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. in Denver District Court courtroom 4H.