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ELKTON MAN SENTENCED FOR SECOND DEGREE RAPE

ELKTON- Friday, March 26, 2021 Benjamin Bauer of Elkton, Maryland was sentenced to seven years for felony rape in the second degree. Thanks to the bravery of the victim for coming forward and the excellent police work of lead detective Chase Armington of the Cecil County Sheriff's Office, Bauer plead guilty to the charge on February 12, 2021. Circuit Court Victim Coordinator, Valda Rotolo stated "rape is not just an event, it is the taking away of dignity, of power, of voice and of the feeling of safety." On March 4, 2020, after admitting to the crime, Bauer was arrested and later denied bond.

Maryland State Sentencing Guidelines recommended seven to 13 years of active incarceration. The Chief of the Special Victim's Unit, Prosecutor Nathaniel Bowen asked the court to impose a total of 20 years, suspending all but nine years to serve while defense counsel argued for four years to serve. The Honorable William W. Davis, Jr. of the Cecil County Circuit Court sentenced Bauer to 15 years suspending all but seven years to serve. Judge Davis then referred to Bauer's own experience with sexual assault and expressed frustration toward the defendant for putting another person through the same type of trauma.

As a part of his guilty plea, once released from prison, Bauer will be placed on five years of supervised probation, which includes specialized Collaborative Offender Management Enforcement Treatment (COMET) supervision. He will also be required to register as a sex offender for life. Mr. Bowen added, "The victim's injuries are not shown on the outside, but are nonetheless real; we hope that this outcome can help restore some of that power, voice, and safety to the victim as she begins the healing process."