



**OFFICE OF THE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DELAWARE MAN SENTENCED TO 8 YEARS FOR
NORTH EAST SHOOTING**

ELKTON- Monday, June 21, 2021, Michael Kevin O'Brien was sentenced for firing a single gunshot into the windshield of an occupied vehicle. On November 11, 2020, Maryland State Police were called out to the residence on Railroad Road in North East, MD after an anonymous caller informed the dispatcher that a gun had been fired into an occupied car. The victim was sitting in the driver's seat of a rented vehicle, ready to leave their residence, when an argument between the driver and O'Brien ensued. The argument quickly escalated when O'Brien fired a single shot from a .22 caliber rifle into the windshield of the car injuring the victim.

Further investigation revealed that the bullet passed through the windshield and penetrated the rear seat of the vehicle, breaking glass and inflicting minor injuries upon the victim, who refused medical treatment at the scene. Police recovered the firearm and other evidence from the crime scene. O'Brien had fled the scene prior to police's arrival and was apprehended a few days later in Pennsylvania.

O'Brien plead guilty to the top count of Assault in the First Degree; a felony classified as a crime of violence with a maximum sentence of twenty-five years. Maryland Sentencing guidelines recommended between twelve and twenty years for the sole count of Assault in the First Degree, based on both the most recent offense as well as the Defendant's record. Assistant State's Attorney, Robert Sentman, recommended a sentence of twenty-five years, suspend all but twelve to twenty. The Defense requested a lesser sentence below sentencing guidelines. Circuit Court Associate Judge William W. Davis imposed a sentence of twenty-three years, suspend all but eight years to serve followed by a period of supervised probation and no contact with the victim.