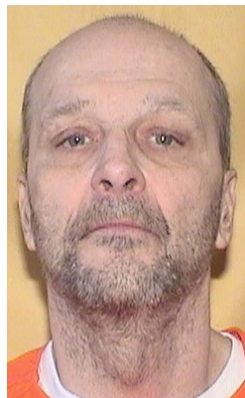


Honzu's sentences, convictions upheld



The Warren man convicted by a Trumbull County of two rape and three kidnapping charges last year had his conviction and three consecutive life sentences plus 60 years upheld Monday, August 14, 2023, by the 11th District Court of Appeals.

A second conviction and sentence against David Honzu, 64, was also upheld by the court.

Last month, Honzu's lawyer argued that his client was never found guilty by the trial court judge on specifications that enhanced his prison sentence.

Last fall, a jury found him guilty of kidnapping, brutally beating and raping a female victim in Warren in 2007. A Sexual Assault Initiative on the part of the Ohio Attorney General's Office in 2011 secured DNA evidence that identified Honzu as the assailant.

The court, led by Judge Mary Jane Trapp and joined by Judges Eugene Lucci and Robert Patton, ruled that the court did not err, saying the judge made a finding that Mr. Honzu "is" a sexually violent predator (SVP) and a repeat violent offender (RVO). The court, however, noted clerical errors and ordered the judge to issue a "nunc pro tunc" sentencing entry on Honzu's case.

Earlier in a 2022 bench trial, a judge found Honzu guilty of two lesser included counts of attempted kidnapping with sexual motivation, with SVP and RVO specifications and a separate count of tampering with evidence. He was sentenced to a 17 year to life sentence. That sentence dealt with a July 2022 incident at a self-service car wash in Champion Township where a young woman escaped from an abduction attempt. Honzu was apprehended a few hours later, still driving around in a vehicle that was spotted at the car wash. At the time of his arrest, Honzu was naked from the waist down and intoxicated.

In that case, Honzu appealed, citing two potential court errors, stating the state failed to prove the attempted kidnapping charge and that he was deprived of effective assistance of counsel because his attorney failed to file motions to suppress evidence seized from searches of his vehicle and cell phone.

Judges Trapp, Lucci and Patton again found the defendant's assignments of error to be without merit.

In both cases, Trumbull County Assistant Prosecutor Ryan Sanders argued on behalf of the state. Honzu was represented by Canton attorney Dennis Day Lager.

Honzu is now incarcerated at Marion Correctional Institution.

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