

## Niles man gets probation for attempted strangulation



A Niles man who was one of the first Ohioans to be charged under the new state strangulation law on Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023, received three-year probation.

Daren Wilson, 35, of Youngstown Warren Road, had pleaded guilty July 20 to a fourth-degree felony charge of attempted strangulation.

**Wilson**, (at left) told Common Pleas Judge Ronald J. Rice “he had lost his mind” during a confrontation with his fiancé. He blamed the mood swing on an abuse of steroids.

Wilson was indicted on charges of strangulation and domestic violence in the alleged dispute with his girlfriend in which she suffered a broken blood vessel in her upper lip. Prosecutors agreed to reduce the charge to attempted strangulation as well as dismiss the domestic violence in return for a guilty plea.

The female victim appeared in court during the sentencing hearing saying she forgave Wilson and was willing to reconcile with him.

On March 27, Niles police met with the victim who detailed the altercation between her and Wilson that occurred inside an apartment they shared. The disagreement centered around a text Wilson was making. The report states the dispute became physical when Wilson pushed her to the floor. Wilson then grabbed her from behind, roping his arms around her neck and choking her until she blacked out. She woke up, the reports states, and then locked herself in the bathroom.

The new state law went into effect in April 2023 that makes strangulation a felony offense.

In other court action that occurred before Judge Ronald Rice:

- Mitchell A. King, 36, of Housel Craft Road, Bristolville, was sentenced to six months in prison on a conviction for possession of a fentanyl-related compound. King had pleaded guilty to the fifth-degree felony on July 11 with another count of illegal conveyance dismissed. The judge cited 35 times that the defendant had been arrested or convicted and said he was not eligible for probation.

- Devron James, 26, of Peace Avenue NW, Warren, pleaded guilty to aggravated possession of drugs and was sentenced to a prison term of six months. James was arrested by Warren police during a trespass call earlier this year at the Buckeye Apartments in Warren. He was found with a small amount of methamphetamine. The prison sentence was agreed upon by James attorney and prosecutors as part of the plea deal.
- Bond was revoked for David Kerester, 67, of Elizabeth St., Hubbard, who is facing 11 counts dealing with sexual assault and child pornography investigated by Hubbard police. Prosecutors had moved for Kerester to be held without bond while his case is being heard by a Trumbull County grand jury. The investigation was triggered after tips were received by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

For more information, contact Guy Vogrin of the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office at 330-675-2485.