



Genesee County Prosecutor's Office David Leyton, Prosecutor



Burton woman testifies at trial of Kevin Thomas of Iron Mountain, accused of raping women kidnapped from malls

by Bryn Mickle | The Flint Journal
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FLINT, Michigan -- A Burton mother broke down in tears Tuesday as she recounted how a man carjacked her in a mall parking lot then drove to get a steak and onion sub before taking her out to a farm.

The woman, 31, said she thought her life was over when she saw the field.

"Total panic set in," she said. "I would never see my son again because I was never coming back."

But instead of killing her, she said Kevin L. Thomas, 33, of Iron Mountain brutally raped her then let her go a short time later.

Two days later, Thomas allegedly did the same with a woman who prosecutors say he kidnapped from the parking lot of the Genesee Valley shopping center in Flint Township.

Taking the stand on the first day of his rape trial, the Burton victim told Genesee County Prosecutor David S. Leyton that she had just left an eye appointment at Courtland Center on Oct. 22, 2007, when she was blindsided as she got into her Hummer H3.

She said Thomas demanded money then drove around with her to a fast food restaurant and an ATM before heading out to a Shiawassee County field where she said he pulled into some waist-high crops and raped her in the front passenger seat.

Thomas, wearing a blue suit, scribbled on a notepad and watched the woman as she described an attack she said lasted just minutes but "seemed like forever."

A defense attorney questioned why the woman didn't scream for help during stops at the restaurant drive thru, the ATM or a drive-up convenience store where the woman said Thomas stopped for cigarettes before the rape.

The woman said she believed his earlier promise not to hurt her.

"I thought the police could find him ... I hope he's off the streets forever," she said.

She said no when a defense attorney asked if the sex was a consensual trade for drugs or money.

At Leyton's prompting, the woman said she had paid \$7,000 to trade in the Hummer afterward.

"I didn't have the heart to drive it again," she said.

Testimony is expected to resume Wednesday with the second alleged rape victim who police say Thomas kidnapped outside a JC Penney store at Genesee Valley two days later.

The trial is expected to last several days and Thomas faces life in prison if convicted.