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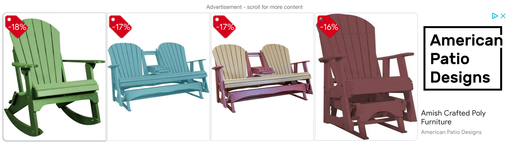

NEWS

Disabled adult exploitation case ends with long probation term

Sandy Hodson shodson@augustachronicle.com

Published 2:34 p.m. ET Oct. 24, 2019

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Augusta Chronicle

A former caregiver who cursed and threatened to beat a disabled man pleaded guilty to exploitation of a disabled adult Thursday.

Because the judge had rejected a plea negotiation in August that would have resulted in a straight probation sentence, Anthony Green, 24, was scared to death, his defense attorney told Judge John Flythe in Richmond County Superior Court. The new plea negotiation called for a cap of three years in prison.

Between May 1 and May 21, 2018, Green was captured on video cursing at and threatening to beat a disabled man whom Green was supposed to be caring for, said Assistant District Attorney Mark Shaefer. Green is also on video advancing on the victim who cowered in a fetal position.

Green, a high school graduate with no prior felony criminal history, has always maintained employment, said his attorney, Keith Johnson. There was no excuse for his actions but Green is a young man with a lot of potential, said Johnson, who asked the judge to consider a long period of probation so Green can prove he will not be in trouble again.

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Flythe asked to see the video, which he watched in his office so the victim would not be further exposed. Afterward, he told Green that while it was disturbing, it wasn't what he had pictured in his mind.

Green certainly has no business serving as a caregiver in any capacity, Flythe said. While his behavior was terrible, the judge said, Green showed up for court Wednesday knowing it was likely he would go to prison, meaning he was willing to accept punishment for his actions.

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Flythe sentenced Green to 20 years probation under the First Offender Act. He also imposed a $1,000 and ordered Green to perform 300 hours of community service. As a condition of probation, Flythe forbade Green from working in the healthcare field or serving as any type of caregiver.

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