

Pill addiction earns prison sentence for Spotsylvania man

Keith Epps

Jul 14, 2016



Deal

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A man who robbed a Spotsylvania County pharmacy last year to feed his prescription pill addiction was ordered Thursday to serve five years in prison.

Scott Franklin Deal, 46, of Spotsylvania had previously pled guilty to robbery and using a firearm in the commission of a felony. He was sentenced in Spotsylvania Circuit Court to a total of 23 years in prison, with all but five years suspended.

According to the evidence, Deal robbed the Rite Aid on Plank Road on June 9 of last year. Commonwealth's Attorney Travis Bird said Deal placed items including deodorant and gummy bears on the counter, then handed a clerk a note demanding various prescription pills "quickly and calmly." Deal also displayed a handgun.

The clerk complied with the robber's demands, and Deal left with various drugs and the gun.

The Sheriff's Office immediately distributed images of the robber captured by the store's surveillance camera. Someone who knew Deal had seen him speeding out of the parking after the robbery, Bird said.

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Police tracked Deal to Louisa County, where he was arrested a couple of days later without incident. He gave police a full confession, and police also recovered his fingerprints off items he'd left on the pharmacy counter.

A number of people, including several ministers, were in court Thursday to support deal. His supporters said the robbery was totally out of character and said Deal was normally an honorable man.

Bird said he believes Deal's supporters. "I have no doubt he's a good person 99 percent of the time," Bird said. "But sometimes good people do bad things and they must be held accountable."

Attorney Ghislaine Storr Burks represented Deal.

Keith Epps: 540/374-5404

kepps@freelancestar.com

By Keith Epps

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