

Stalker's jail time too short, victim says

Written by Carol Pomeday

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Cedar Grove woman wanted neighbor sentenced to two years in prison, identified as sex offender

A Cedar Grove man who entered his next-door neighbor's home numerous times over 2-1/2 years, urinating on her clothing, rifling through her drawers, even using her shower, will spend six months in jail and three years on probation, something the victim believes is too lenient.

Sheboygan County Judge Terence Bourke sentenced Thomas F. Schultz, 49, of 269 N. Main St., on Friday, Nov. 6.

Schultz had pleaded no contest to a felony charge of stalking, which carries a maximum 3-1/2 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Schultz was allowed two weeks to report to the jail.

A surveillance camera installed by the woman showed him in her home on June 18.

"I was so elated when I caught him. I knew it was him all along just by what he said and how he acted," said the 62-year-old victim, who asked that her name not be used.

"Everybody knows it's me and they've been so supportive, but I don't want my grandchildren to see my name in print. How do you explain it to them? How do you explain it to his 10-year-old son?"

The woman said she asked that Schultz be sentenced to two years because that's how long the stalking occurred.

"It may have been longer and I didn't notice anything," she said. "He took 2-1/2 years from my life. Couldn't you have him pay with two years of his life?"

"I can't wait until Nov. 23 (when he reports to jail). When he's gone and he doesn't come home every night, I think I will have a good six months, and hopefully they will move before he gets out.

"Just not seeing his truck in the driveway next to my porch will feel good. Whenever I see it or him, it churns my stomach. I'm constantly looking over my shoulder."

She asked the judge to require Schultz to register as a sex offender, but that was denied.

"I think I was most disappointed in that," she said. "His acts were sexual in nature, all of them. They said it wasn't against me, but it was my underwear. It wasn't like it was in a store and (the clothing) didn't belong to anybody. I'm worried it could happen to another woman or child."

Bourke withheld a prison sentence and ordered Schultz to serve six months in jail as a condition of probation as recommended by Sheboygan County Assistant District Attorney Joel

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Urmanski.

The judge also granted Schultz Huber release privileges for work and child care.

Schultz has been allowed to be home when his wife is present, but he can have no contact with the victim. He could be required by the Department of Corrections to move as a condition of his probation, Urmanski said.

The prosecutor said he recommended the sentence as part of a plea agreement because he believes it allows more supervision over Schultz than if he was given a prison term and released early for good behavior.

"It was a very strange and disturbing case. Three years of supervision is the longest we could get. If he gets (his probation) revoked, he could get another two years confinement and probation. My thought was, 'Let's control this man as long as we can.' His supervision will be very close," Urmanski said.

"It was a very unusual case, especially since it came from a man who had no prior record and had a history of being married and employed."

That may be the case, the victim said, but he changed her life and she hopes never to see him again.

"When he's gone, I will really try to get back to a normal life and back to who I was before," she said. "Because of this, I changed. I have been under so much stress. Without my family and the Lord, I would never have survived."

The woman said she never considered moving.

"This is my house. I didn't do anything wrong," she said. "There is no reason why I should move. I like it here. I like the rest of the neighbors. I would think in the light of the circumstances that he would feel the pressure to move."