

# *News Release*

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## **Derrick Clark Sentenced to Seventeen Years in Prison**

**Moncks Corner, S.C.** – Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that a Berkeley County man was convicted yesterday after a jury trial of Burglary 1<sup>st</sup> degree, Assault and Battery 1<sup>st</sup> degree, and Unlawful Possession of Burglary Tools. Judge Kristi Harrington sentenced Derrick Ladon Clark, 25, to seventeen years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections. He must serve eighty-five percent of his sentence before being eligible for parole.

In the early morning hours of October 20, 2012, the victim woke up to find the defendant standing in his hallway. After the victim confronted the defendant, a physical altercation ensued which led to numerous scratches and bruises about the victim's chest, back, and neck areas. The defendant was able to get away from the victim, at which point the victim's fiancé attempted to stop him from leaving by grabbing onto his clothing. In the struggle, the defendant lost his shoes and pants in the front yard of the victim's home.

The victim chased the defendant through the neighborhood and was able to flag down responding officers. Officers had to use OC spray to subdue the defendant before placing him into custody. His pants and shoes were recovered from the victim's yard and inside the pants officers located a wrench and screwdriver with an altered blade. During the trial, the defendant admitted that he broke into the victim's home using the screwdriver but denied that he intended to steal anything from the home.

The victim says he and his family lost their sense of safety based because of the burglary. "Thanks to the victim's actions and quick response by law enforcement, a dangerous criminal will be off the streets of Berkeley County for the foreseeable future. Hopefully this verdict and sentence will allow the victim to regain some of the security," said Assistant Solicitor Colleen Taylor.

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