

Gainesville man sentenced to life in prison

By Staff report

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Anthony Carl Williams, 39, was sentenced to life in prison.

A Gainesville man was sentenced to life in prison after he was found guilty by a jury Thursday of kidnapping and attempted sexual battery for attacking a hotel clerk, the State Attorney's Office reported in a news release.

Anthony Carl Williams, 39, of 620 SW 67th Terrace, Apt. G, got the verdict after the jury deliberated for 90 minutes. He was sentenced by Circuit Judge Aymer "Buck" Curtin.

Williams was arrested following a March 2018 incident at the Sleep Inn & Suites at 4110 SW 40th Blvd. He charged the desk clerk, grabbed her by her neck, and tried to take off her clothes and drag her into a secluded area, Gainesville Police reported at the time.

A hotel guest heard the disturbance and helped fight off Williams, who ran away.

Video surveillance from the nearby Waffle House showed that Williams was in the restaurant shortly before the hotel incident. The person in that video matched surveillance video from the hotel.

The woman was shown a picture lineup but chose a photo of someone other than Williams, the report said.

Williams is designated as a prison releasee reoffender, and prosecutors asked that the minimum mandatory sentence be given.

Curtin sentenced Williams to life in prison on the kidnapping conviction and five years for the attempted sexual battery.

Previous convictions for Williams include drugs, theft and battery.