

# Judge to defendant: 'If people knew the facts they'd wanna break your neck!'

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September 7,  
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Judge Has Strong Words For Defendant



## CRIME

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Despite reservations, a judge sticks to a promise to spare a Cheektowaga man from a state prison who had admitted to trying to molest children.

Author: Dave McKinley

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BUFFALO, N.Y. — Despite some strongly expressed reservations, a judge on Friday stuck to his word and allowed a Cheektowaga man to avoid state prison after that man admitted to trying to molest children.

Under a plea bargain, State Supreme Court Justice William Boller sentenced Michael Henry, 65, to 10 years' probation, the first six months of which will be served in the Erie County Holding Center.

With good behavior Henry will be released in four months.

Henry, who could have gotten eight years in state prison if convicted at trial, plead guilty in April to two felony counts of Attempted Course of Sexual Conduct Against a Child.

Henry admitted that over the course of two years he had been to attempting to engage in sexual conduct with two pubescent girls.

"This plea was offered with the consent of the victims, and they were aware of your honor's sentencing commitment at the time of the plea," Erie County Assistant District Attorney Kate Lavin told the court prior to sentencing. "That was mainly to bring closure to the victims in

this case.”

Michael Henry, 65, of Cheektowaga admitted to two felonies for trying to engage in sexual conduct with pubescent girls. His sentence: 6 Months in jail, although with good behavior, he'll be out in 4 months. The story tonight at 5 on [@wgrz TV 2 #Buffalo](#) [pic.twitter.com/lmz3WHUdNy](https://pic.twitter.com/lmz3WHUdNy)

— Dave McKinley (@DaveMcKinley2) [September 6, 2019](#)

However, Boller upon reading the complete probation report filed with the court after Henry entered his plea, indicated that he likely would not have agreed to the promised six-month sentence had he been aware of its contents.

“There’s so many people that I know that if you told them the facts, they’d wanna break your neck,” Boller told Henry. “If this happened to my daughter, or this happened to my granddaughter, you wouldn’t be here. I would be charged with a penal law violation of assault or worse.”

Henry's lawyer reminded the judge that his client, even though no complaint had ever been filed against him, went to Cheektowaga Police of his own volition to report his behavior.

“He was the person who went to law enforcement. He accepted responsibility,” said attorney Frank Bogulski, who also reminded the judge that despite the contents of the pre-sentence report, it ultimately recommended that his client be granted probation.

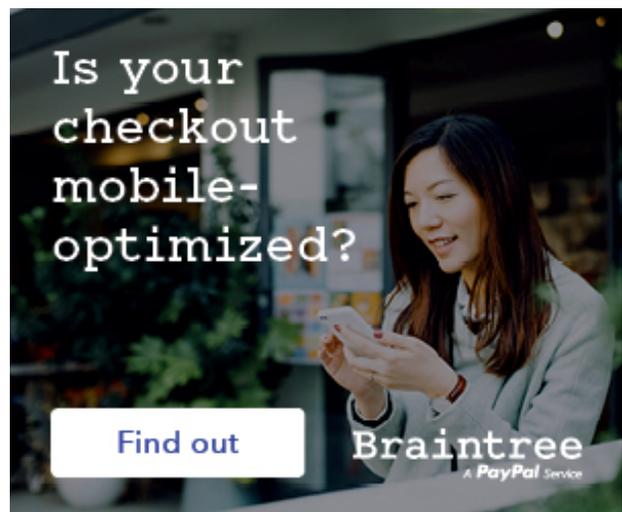
“I’m very sorry for what I did,” Henry told the court, when afforded the opportunity to speak prior to sentencing. “I am getting counseling and making sure that I get that counseling because I need it.”

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Justice Boller told Henry he was tempted to renege on the agreement he made to a sentence of no more than six months.

“Today I was prepared to sentence you to two years on each count to run consecutively. That’s a total of four years,” Boller said. “But I was barred from doing it because I gave a commitment.”

It was a commitment the judge ultimately stuck to, but not without warning Henry that he had better stick to his commitments while on probation, including to abide by an order



of protection to keep away from the victims.

"Because if you don't like the holding center for six months, you're gonna hate state prison with the big boys," Boller said. "So this will help you stay the track ... because what you did was unconscionable."

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## CRIME

Jonathon White, 28, is charged with attempted murder. He is accused of setting his ex-girlfriend, Jessica Cameron, on fire outside a Tim Hortons last December.

Author: WGRZ Staff

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BUFFALO, N.Y. — The woman who police say was set on fire by her ex-boyfriend, is expected to take the stand today during his trial.

Jonathon White, 28, is charged with attempted murder. He is accused of setting his ex-girlfriend, Jessica Cameron, on fire outside a Tim Hortons last December.

Cameron sustained extensive burns to her face, head, and hands. She spent several months in the burn unit at ECMC and is still recovering from her physical injuries.

Cameron was called to the stand to testify just before 11am Thursday.

She testified she first met White in April of 2010, on his birthday. They were friends before entering into a romantic relationship, she said.

Cameron told jurors she made the decision to end her relationship with White in the summer of 2018. She said when she told White, he "wouldn't acknowledge it."

White and Cameron had been in a relationship for more than seven years and have three children together. At the time of the incident, Cameron had already moved out and had started dating someone else, according to prosecutors.

Cameron said she moved out in December of 2018 and went to live with her mother because of their continued fighting and White's drinking.

She said she started a new relationship with a person named Matthew in December. On December 17, Cameron said she and her children were video-chatting on Facebook with White. Her phone died and Matthew offered his phone, she said.

Cameron said when she went to work at Tim Hortons, White messaged her, said he was hungry and wanted to get food and talk to her. She said when she met him by the dumpster, he questioned her relationship about Matthew. She says she asked him why he wanted to meet her by the dumpster, where no one could see them.

Cameron testified she knew something was not right when she noticed an apple juice container by the dumpster. When she asked White if he was going to hurt her, she said he responded "yes."

She said White took the apple juice container, opened it and poured the entire contents over her head. She said she could smell gasoline as the liquid was poured over her head.

The first witness to testify Thursday was Alexis Curtis, a former co-worker of Cameron's at Tim Hortons. Curtis said in court that she saw a December 17 Facebook post showing Cameron and a person she says Cameron had begun a new relationship.

Curtis testified that she and Cameron were both scheduled to work at Tim Hortons on the day the incident happened. She said Cameron went out to meet White at the dumpsters around 3pm. Shortly after that, she testified that another co-worker came into the restaurant and said call 911. A customer in the drive-thru told them a person was on fire, she said.

Curtis testified White would frequently log on to Cameron's Facebook page and check her messages without consent. Curtis said that when she would visit Cameron and White at their home, they would argue frequently.

On Wednesday, several police officers from the City of Tonawanda Police department testified about arriving on-scene following the 911 call and the investigation that followed.

"78 seconds, Jessica Cameron was engulfed in flames. As the flames tore through her body, Jessica was awake and alert," said the prosecution in its opening statement.

2 On Your Side's Karys Belger is in court following the trial and will have real-time updates on her Twitter page.

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