



For Immediate Release:

MEDIA CONTACT:

Tom Mustin
Media Relations Director
23rd Judicial District
Cell: 303-358-9375
tmustin@coda23.gov

Convicted Stalker Sentenced to Probation in Highlands Ranch Domestic Violence Case

Castle Rock, CO – September 18, 2025. Despite a violent history of criminal conduct, a jury conviction for assault and stalking, and the recommendations of the Probation department, a Douglas County judge has sentenced 31-year-old Taylor Wayne Burrows of Lakewood to probation. The sentence came after Burrows was convicted of violently assaulting his former fiancé, 25-year-old Aubrey Cadwell, in her Highlands Ranch home. The victim and prosecutors had urged the court to impose a prison sentence. The judge declined, instead admonishing the convicted domestic abuser to “work on his demons.”

“This is a second betrayal,” said a distraught Cadwell after Thursday’s sentencing. “First by the man who hurt me, and now by a legal system that was supposed to protect me. I trusted this judge to make a fair decision, and she chose to ignore evidence, and to endanger the public, and to endanger me and my family. There is no justice.”

The March 2023 assault occurred after Burrows accused Caldwell of cheating on him, then strangled her. She managed to escape to a neighbor’s home and called for help. Burrows was later arrested.

The case against Burrows grew more concerning in 2024 when he strangled another person in El Paso County and threatened to kill him. In February of 2025, a jury found Burrows guilty of assault and stalking.

Probation officers have classified Burrows as a “maximum risk to reoffend.” Community Corrections in two separate jurisdictions rejected him due to concerns about risk and public safety. Despite those warnings and his criminal record, the judge sentenced Burrows to probation - a move that drew sharp criticism from prosecutors. Burrows also offered no apologies and expressed no remorse for his conduct.

“I respect the court’s determination, because it is charged with finding a sentence that is both just and protective of the victim and the community. It is difficult to view this outcome as accomplishing either of these goals,” said Senior Deputy District Attorney Nate Marsh. “When victims do everything right- they come forward, they testify, and a jury agrees- they should not be failed at sentencing. Probation for a proven abuser who has a history of ignoring the court’s prior orders...it is understandable that the victim feels betrayed, and at risk.”

District Attorney George Brauchler echoed the frustration, “I was elected to protect this community, especially the most vulnerable and preyed upon among us. But my powers end at the judge’s bench. The judge alone determines the appropriate sentence in cases like this. Here, a convicted high risk domestic abuser- whose longest period of lawful behavior has been while he was in jail on this case- has been returned to our neighborhoods contrary to the recommendations of everyone in the system...except the convicted abuser. What message does this send to domestic violence victims who are searching for the courage and support to come forward?”

####