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Douglas County Walmart Stabber Sentenced to 40 Years in Prison

Castle Rock CO –A 33-year-old man who stabbed three people during an unprovoked crime spree in Douglas and Arapahoe County, will spend 40 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections.

Luke Barkhaus pleaded guilty to felony child abuse and two counts of first-degree assault stemming from three separate attacks in January of 2025. According to Parker Police, Barkhaus first stabbed a restaurant employee, and approximately an hour later attacked another random victim inside a store. In a third attack, Barkhaus slashed a child in the head inside a Walmart.

Parker detectives tracked Barkhaus to Aurora where he was arrested two days after the attacks.

Barkhaus has an extensive criminal history, including a history of substance abuse and mental health issues.

Parker Police Chief Jim Tsurapas credited the investigators and deputies who worked to apprehend and identify Barkhaus. “These senseless and unprovoked attacks placed innocent people, including a child, in grave danger,” said

Tsurapas. “This sentence holds Barkhaus accountable and ensures he can no longer threaten the safety of our community. I commend our detectives, along with our law enforcement partners, for their tireless work to identify, apprehend, and bring this dangerous offender to justice.”

“Mr. Barkhaus terrorized a community, and endangered the life of a child, leaving lasting scars on the child and his family,” said Senior Deputy District Attorney Lauren Raible. I’m hopeful that an extended stay in the Department of Corrections will give the defendant an opportunity to address the issues that contributed to his criminal behavior and give the victims time to heal.”

District Attorney George Brauchler said the sentence sends a clear message that random acts of violence will not be tolerated in Douglas County. “This malevolent menace said that he stabbed those innocent victims because he wanted to see what it was like to do it. And then he blamed his evil actions on years of “huffing,” said Brauchler. “There is no fixing someone like this. There is only protecting our community from him. This is why we build prisons.”

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