

Hillsborough County Attorney  
State of New Hampshire

300 Chestnut Street, Manchester, New Hampshire 03101  
Telephone 603.627.5605  
Fax 603.627.5627

MAUREEN F. O'NEIL  
PATRICIA M. LaFRANCE  
FIRST ASSISTANTS

CATHERINE McNAUGHTON  
DIRECTOR, VICTIM/WITNESS PROGRAM

DENNIS C. HOGAN  
COUNTY ATTORNEY



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

OFFICE OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ATTORNEY  
PRESS RELEASE  
November 1, 2011

**WILLIAM DECATO CONVICTED OF 17 COUNTS BY HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY JURY**

William Decato, age 55, formerly of 66 Medford Street, Manchester, was found guilty after a week-and-a-half jury trial in the Hillsborough County Superior Court North on November 1, 2011, before the Honorable Kenneth C. Brown. Decato was convicted of nine counts of Aggravated Felonious Sexual Assault, four counts of Attempted Aggravated Felonious Sexual Assault, one count of Kidnapping, one count of Burglary and two counts of Falsifying Physical Evidence.

In August of 2009, Decato broke into the victim's Manchester home by ripping out a screen in her bedroom window. Once inside her home, he brutally raped her over a two hour period, dragging her between the living room, bathroom and bedroom. Shortly after the assaults started, the victim grabbed a knife and sliced Decato behind his ear and stabbed him in the neck. Decato responded by punching the victim and he continued to rape her. The victim testified that because the defendant bled from his injuries, he twice forced her into the shower to wash off the blood. When he fled the house, the defendant also gathered numerous blood-stained items and discarded them in the neighborhood. Blood evidence from the scene was collected by Manchester Police detectives and sent to the State Lab. Forensic DNA tests identified the blood as Decato's. The defendant also left behind a hat and glasses at the scene, which Decato's family members identified as his.

The victim promptly reported the assault and gave a description of her attacker to the police. Manchester Police Department broadcast the description of the suspect from the victim and within hours officers apprehended Decato as he walked along Ruth Avenue in Manchester.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant County Attorneys Maureen O'Neil and Michael Valentine, who praised the victim for her courage. "If it were not for the courage of the victim in reporting the assault and testifying against the defendant a dangerous predator would still be on the streets," said Assistant County Attorney Michael Valentine.

Judge Kenneth Brown revoked the defendant's bail and sentencing will be scheduled in approximately 60 days. The defendant is subject to life in prison without parole on the nine sexual assault charges, 7 ½ to 15 years on the burglary, and 3 ½ to 7 on each of the kidnapping and falsifying physical evidence charges.

Questions about the case can be referred to County Attorney Dennis C. Hogan at the County Attorney's Office in Manchester at 603.627.5605.

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