

DNA leads to Memphis man's conviction in 18-year-old rape case

Phillip Jackson, Memphis Commercial Appeal Published 4:49 p.m. CT Oct. 15, 2018 | Updated 4:51 p.m. CT Oct. 15, 2018



(Photo: Memphis PD)

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A Memphis man was convicted of a rape that occurred in 2000 after DNA linked him to the 18-year-old crime, according to the Shelby County District Attorney's Office.

David Hugo Johnson, 43, was convicted on Friday for the 2000 sexual assault that occurred in southwest Memphis, District Attorney Amy Weirich said.

Johnson, who is serving time in an Oklahoma prison on a burglary charge, will be sentenced to 15-to-25 years in prison at a hearing scheduled for next month with Judge Lee Coffee.

The woman told police she woke up to Johnson raising her bedroom window and climbing inside. Johnson then put a knife to her throat, threatened to kill her and then cut up her undergarments before he raped her, the district attorney's office said.

The evidence collected in a sexual assault forensic kit was not tested until years later. The kit was sent to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations in July of 2012.

An indictment listing the DNA profile was obtained in March 2015 to prevent the statute of limitations from expiring on the case, the district attorney's office said.

A Combined DNA Index System match later that year identified Johnson as the owner of the DNA profile developed in the case.