



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Man Sentenced to 20 years in Brutal Beating of His Wife**

A man who assaulted his common-law wife during an April 2012 trip in a camper across four states was sentenced to 20 years in prison today in Adams County District Court.

Tom Joe Grose (DOB 02/26/49) had pleaded guilty to first-degree assault (F3) and attempted unlawful sexual contact (F5).

He was arrested April 25, 2012 in the parking lot of a Wal-Mart at 9901 Grant Street in Thornton, where the camper-truck was parked, after his common-law wife escaped from the camper and, brutally beaten, ran to a customer begging for help.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Patrick Costigan told the judge that she had been systematically tortured and beaten over the course of five days as the couple traveled from Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico into Colorado. If the woman had not been able to escape and seek help when she did, the case could have been a homicide, Costigan said.

The victim suffered four broken ribs, a lacerated liver and a perforated ear drum after Grose shoved a screw driver into her ear. She told police that Grose had repeatedly threatened to kill her, had choked her, held a gun to her head and held a knife to her throat.

In imposing the maximum sentencing under the plea agreement, Adams County District Judge Thomas Ensor characterized Grose as "sick" and "an animal".

Grose was ordered to pay \$16,800 in restitution for medical bills and must register as a sex offender when he is released from prison.

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