



NEWS RELEASE

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Truck Driver Sentenced to 20 Years in Truck Stop Shooting

Byron Wayne Linton (DOB 02/13/52) was sentenced to 20 years in prison Thursday for attempted second-degree murder (F3) and first-degree assault (F3) in the shooting of a man at the Sapp Brothers truck stop in Commerce City last year.

Keith Williams, 24, of Denver, had just gotten off work from UPS on October 29, 2015 and was still in his uniform, putting air in his car's tires when Linton, of Grand Junction, drove up behind him in his Peterbilt truck with a car trailer attached, wanting to weigh his load. Linton became impatient, got out of his truck and confronted Williams, who was getting in his car to leave. Linton pulled out a gun and shot Williams in the abdomen. After the shooting he continued to yell at Williams, saying "Why did you make me do this."

An Adams County District Court jury deliberated less than three hours before convicting Linton on both counts on Nov. 3.

Linton contended that that he was scared, that the shooting was accidental and that he didn't know his finger was on the trigger. But Deputy District Attorney Josh Raaz said Linton was an experienced shooter who had held a concealed carry permit for 10 years and knew what he was doing. Linton also did nothing to help Williams who fell and was bleeding on the ground.

Linton, a former college basketball player, will never be able to play basketball again because of his injuries.

"The defendant shows no acceptance of responsibility or remorse for what he did to Keith Williams," Deputy District Attorney Alex Baker told the court during the sentencing hearing, asking for a significant prison sentence. "This was a young black man in his UPS uniform minding his own business. To give the defendant a minimum sentence doesn't give Keith Williams justice for what happened that night or for the struggles he continues to face today and will face in the future."

Adams County District Judge Don Quick imposed a 20 year prison term followed by 5 years of parole.