

**Bristol County District Attorney's Office
C. Samuel Sutter
District Attorney**

**Press Release
January 16, 2008**

District Attorney Sam Sutter announced today that Buddy Smith, 23, of Fall River was convicted by a jury of his peers in Taunton Superior Court on charges of indecent assault & battery of a retarded person, witness intimidation, and rape. Smith was accused of raping a mentally retarded man on multiple occasions between January of 2004 and October of 2006. These charges carry a maximum sentence of 20 years in the state prison. The Commonwealth recommended 15 to 20 years. Judge Barbara Dortch-Okara sentenced Smith to 7 to 10 years in state prison. Furthermore, Smith will be placed on probation for five years upon his release. The conditions of his probation stipulate that he must stay away from the victim and the victim's family, he cannot work or volunteer with disabled individuals, he cannot have access to computers or chat lines, he must register as a sex offender, and he must attend counseling for sex crime perpetrators. Additionally, he will be required to wear a GPS monitoring bracelet for the duration of his probation. Second Assistant District Attorney Silvia Rudman prosecuted the case for the Commonwealth. The trial lasted five days and the jury deliberated for approximately four hours.

District Attorney Sutter said, "I am very gratified for the victim and his family that they received justice for this horrendous, unconscionable crime. Their tenacity in the pursuit of justice was an indispensable part of the successful prosecution. An equally indispensable part of the successful prosecution was the advocacy of Second Assistant District Attorney Silvia Rudman. Her remarkable array of talents as a trial attorney was never more evident than during the trial of this case. We are fortunate to have her as a member of our organization."

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