



# PRESS NOTICE

## W. WALTER WILKINS UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

---

*1441 Main Street, Suite 500 \* Columbia, SC 29201 \* (803) 929-3000\**

---

August 21, 2008

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**CONTACT PERSON: KEVIN MCDONALD**  
**(803) 929-3005**

**FLORENCE FELON GETS 10 YEARS FOR**  
**ARMED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENT**

COLUMBIA, South Carolina -- United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins announced that United States District Judge Terry L. Wooten sentenced Donnie Wayne Sheffield, 36, of Florence, South Carolina, to 10 years imprisonment, the statutory maximum sentence, after being convicted by a jury to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Evidence at trial established that one evening in January 2006, Sheffield began injecting himself with cocaine, then held his girlfriend hostage throughout the night in her home. Armed with a 12-gauge shotgun, Sheffield raped and beat the woman, then strung a noose from the ceiling and threatened to hang her. The next morning, the victim was able to convince Sheffield that if she did not

show up for work, her coworkers would become suspicious and call the police. Sheffield agreed and allowed the victim to leave for work.

Once at work, the victim and her coworkers contacted the police. Because Sheffield was on parole, officers coordinated with the South Carolina Department of Probation and Parole and the United States Marshals Service to arrest Sheffield. An arrest team entered the victim's house, where they arrested Sheffield in a back bedroom. Agents seized the shotgun and the noose, still hanging from a light fixture in the house.

Sheffield was previously convicted in 2001 for a burglary that involved breaking into another girlfriend's house and beating and holding her hostage. Sheffield has other convictions for failure to stop for a blue light, larceny, and distribution of an imitation controlled substance.

The case was investigated by the Florence Police Department, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, the United States Marshals Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Rose Mary Parham.

####