

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

PACIFIC GROVE MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

January 31, 2018

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Robin Duffy, Deputy District Attorney
(831) 755-5412

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that on January 31, 2018, Pacific Grove resident Aaron Peter Thomas, age 46, was sentenced to two years and eight months in prison for felony domestic violence.

On December 7, 2017, Jane Doe arrived home to find the defendant highly intoxicated and sitting on the couch with a hammer. He was annoyed at their upstairs neighbors for being too loud, and told Doe he felt like “murdering them.” When Doe tried to calm him down, Thomas stepped on her feet and threatened to “smash” her. He then threatened to strangle and kill their cat if it came out from under the bed. Doe, terrified, tried to leave, but Thomas took her phone, shoved her down on their bed, forbid her from leaving, and then began swinging the hammer around her head as he continued to threaten to “smash her” with it. He then shattered the bathroom mirror and toilet with the hammer. When Doe tried calling 911 with a second phone, Thomas grabbed that from her hands as well. Fortunately, the neighbors called 911; Doe later told the officers that she believed he would have beaten her with the hammer and was in fear for her life.

Monterey County Superior Court Judge Robert A. Burlison sentenced Thomas to two years and eight months in state prison. Judge Burlison also issued a criminal protective order, prohibiting Thomas from contacting Doe for the next ten years.

This case was investigated by Pacific Grove Police Officers L. Buenrostro, Corporal Daniel Deis, and Detective Paul Nagamine.

There is no excuse for domestic violence and no one should live in fear. If you or a loved one are experiencing domestic violence and need assistance, call the YWCA at 831-372-6300 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).

###