

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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W. Walter Wilkins

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

March 13, 2019

Greenville Man Sentenced on Burglary in the First Degree, Kidnapping and Strong Arm Robbery

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that LESLIE DIRTON, age 44, pled guilty on March 13, 2019, to charges of Burglary in the First Degree, Kidnapping and Strong Arm Robbery, and was sentenced to 18 years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections by the Honorable Judge Stilwell.

Evidence presented at the plea hearing by Assistant Solicitor Jonathan M. Gregory established that on March 3, 2017, LESLIE DIRTON broke into the victim's residence on Cascade Court in Greenville County. The defendant entered the residence by breaking the glass of the victim's garage door. Once inside, the defendant lied to the victim about her son being kidnapped in order to get her into a vehicle. Prior to leaving the residence, Dirton took money from the victim's purse and a gas can. Dirton then drove the victim around Greenville County stopping at several gas stations and a bank. While at a gas station, Dirton filled up the gas tank he had earlier stolen from the victim's residence. Once Dirton stopped the vehicle at an Anderson County gas station, the victim was able to get out of the car and attract the attention of two bystanders. Once confronted by the bystanders, Dirton fled in the victim's vehicle. Dirton was apprehended a short time later and told the police that he was upset that the victim's son broke up with him and that he intended to kill the victim by setting her on fire.