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ATLANTIC CITY MAN GETS SUSPENDED SENTENCE IN MOTEL ROBBERY

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A 26-year-old Atlantic City man was sentenced to a suspended sentence because a teenage motel clerk he was charged with molesting during a robbery had left the country.

Superior Court Judge Michael Connor imposed a five-year suspended sentence on Jerry W. Sapp, of North Carolina Avenue, who pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of third-degree theft by receiving stolen property. The sentence means that he can be sent to prison for that term if he violates the law again.

Assistant County Prosecutor Janet Gravitz and defense attorney Michael Schreiber negotiated the plea after the 19-year-old victim and other witnesses to the crime left the country, leaving Gravitz with only proof that Sapp had the money when he was arrested. The victim returned to Pakistan.

Sapp was indicted on charges of second-degree robbery, burglary and aggravated assault, and third-degree aggravated criminal sexual contact. Because it involves a sexual offense, The Press is withholding the victim's name.

Sapp was accused of robbing the clerk at Hampton's Motor Lodge on the Black Horse Pike in the West Atlantic City section of Egg Harbor Township shortly after 10 p.m. on March 2. The teen told police that she was working alone in the back office of her family's business when he came in, fondled her and tried to strangle her. Then she said he threatened her life, ripped the phone cord from the wall, and fled with \$1,019.

Police tracked him to the nearby Bay Drive Motel, which they staked out for hours while waiting for a judge to issue a search warrant to seize evidence inside Sapp's room. Once they obtained one, they arrested him and confiscated the cash and other evidence.

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