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**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Commonwealth v. Christopher Michael Kelley
Man Claims God Told him to Take Acid; Attacks Woman and Destroys her Home**

Virginia Beach, Va. – Colin D. Stolle, Commonwealth's Attorney for the city of Virginia Beach, announced that Christopher Michael Kelley, age 44, formerly of the 8000 block of Kirbyhaigh Circle in Norfolk, Virginia, was sentenced yesterday by Circuit Court Judge James C. Lewis for Malicious Wounding, Possession of Schedule I/II Drugs, and Destruction of Property. Judge Lewis sentenced Kelley to 25 years in prison with fourteen (14) years suspended, leaving eleven (11) years to serve. This sentence exceeds the high-end of the Virginia State Sentencing Guidelines' recommendation of nine (9) years and nine (9) months to serve.

Kelley pled guilty on June 12, 2019. Had this matter gone to trial, the Commonwealth's evidence would have proven that on June 23, 2018, a woman sleeping in her bedroom woke to the sound of her dogs barking. She heard a lot of commotion in her living room and, assuming it was her children and their friends, went to see why they were being so loud. Christopher Kelley, who was known to the woman, grabbed her, hit her, and threw her against a wall. He punched her in the eye and broke her nose. He shoved his thumbs in her mouth, made a vulgar remark, and dislocated her jaw. Prior to the assault, Kelley knocked over her 1,500-gallon fish tank and broke her televisions. He also broke the coffee table, kitchen countertop, and other items in the home.

Kelley left the residence as police responded to the scene. An officer located Kelley lying in the middle of the street with no shirt on during a heavy thunderstorm talking to God. He yelled things such as, "God told me to beat that old lady," and "She had the mark of the beast." He was belligerent and uncooperative. During a search of Kelley an officer located baggies containing pills and clear strips. Those were sent to the Department of Forensic Science for testing and

determined to be MDA and LSD. Kelley told police that the clear strips were acid and he had taken the acid after getting the drugs from God and being instructed by God to take them.

Kelley has prior convictions for Abduction, Assault and Battery of a Family Member (2 counts), Obtaining Money by False Pretenses, Destruction of Property, DUI, Petit Larceny (2 counts), and several traffic infractions, probation violations, and failure to appear charges.

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Nickie L. Herron prosecuted this case. Please contact Macie Allen if additional information is desired.

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