

Press Release

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Woodbury man, 21, committed to state hospital after court finding he posed a danger to the public.

A 21 year old Woodbury man was found by Washington County District Court Judge Greg Galler to be mentally ill and dangerous after a three day court trial. In 2008, Andrew Busskohl, 21, had been convicted of harassment//stalking and criminal damage to property and placed on intensive probation after police learned that he had masterminded a plot to break into a stranger's home and murder him.

Police discovered a "murder kit" in Busskohl's car along with detailed plans to break into a randomly selected Woodbury man's home and slit his throat while he slept. Busskohl had identified a victim randomly, planned his crime and then went to the stranger's home and broke a patio door window in order to return later and surreptitiously enter the home while the homeowner slept and kill him.

The criminal court found that Busskohl, who had been charged with attempted first degree murder and first degree burglary had not committed an overt act necessary to prove the charges. Upon Busskohl's arrest after police learned of his plan, he was found in possession of a "murder kit" containing a swim cap, hospital scrubs, a mask, surgical gloves, tools, plastic bags, shoe covers, several knives, a scalpel and details regarding the victim he had selected. He also was found to have authored a document he entitled "My Life as a Serial Killer".

Washington County Attorney Pete Orput said “Buszkohl’s on-going behavior both before he was convicted and later while on probation clearly demonstrate that he poses a significant risk to community safety. Rather than wait until Mr. Buszkohl acts out his criminal obsessions, we sought to have him civilly committed as mentally ill and dangerous to protect society and also to assure that he receives the psychiatric help he apparently needs.”

After Buszkohl’s convictions, he was placed on intensive probation supervision with the county’s community corrections department. Buszkohl repeatedly violated conditions of his probation resulting in several hearings before the court. Among those conditions, Buszkohl was directed to abstain from drugs and alcohol, not possess knives and not to view violent graphic material on the internet. After Buszkohl’s first probation violation hearing, the court found that he had failed to abstain from using marijuana. He later was before the court for possessing knives. In a third probation violation hearing, probation officers discovered Buszkohl with an airsoft pistol, knives, gloves, hooded sweat shirt, screwdrivers and razor blades. Later, probation agents discovered another 8” knife in Buszkohl’s desk at school along with a night vision scope and another knife in his home. Buszkohl’s computer showed hundreds of searches about serial killers and victims of serial killers.

After a three day trial before Washington County District Court Judge Gregory Galler, the court found Buszkohl to be suffering from a major mental illness and that he poses a substantial risk of harming himself or others if left untreated. The court directed that Buszkohl be confined to the State Security Hospital at St. Peter, MN. The Court will later determine whether its order for civil commitment be for one year or indefinitely.

“The substantial likelihood that Mr. Buszkohl poses a risk of future dangerousness to our community led us to seek his civil commitment. We hope that he receives proper psychiatric treatment “ Orput said.