

TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Dennis Watkins, Prosecutor

Repeat Violent Offenders newsletter

UPDATE, September 5, 2025

Jury convicts Warren man of kidnapping, assault



A Trumbull County jury convicted John Baker, 64, of kidnapping and felonious assault of a 70-year-old woman after a trial in the courtroom of Common Pleas Judge Sarah Thomas Kovoov.

Baker, of Warren, was also acquitted of one count of first-degree rape. The jury deliberated for almost two hours before reaching the verdicts, ending the three-day trial Thursday, Sept. 4, in the courtroom of Common Pleas Judge Sarah T. Kovoov. Kovoov will pronounce sentence after Baker undergoes a background investigation conducted by probation officers.

The defendant was led away from the courtroom in handcuffs, being housed in Trumbull County jail.

The case involved an incident on Feb. 20, 2025, at a residence along Summerdale Avenue in Champion Township.

The 70-year-old female victim testified Baker attacked her in her home, throwing her on a bed and penetrated her with something sharp. The victim said she locked herself in a bathroom and called for help, as she stated Baker was stabbing the door with a knife while saying he would kill her.

State's evidence included testimony from Champion police officers, the victim's family, an emergency room physician from St. Joseph Warren Hospital and a forensic scientist with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, who presented DNA evidence linking Baker to the victim's underwear, and 28 exhibits, including body camera videos, 911 calls and photos of the knife and damaged door.

Assistant Prosecutor Christopher Becker represented the state in the case. In his closing statements, Becker stated police body camera footage showed Baker to be intoxicated and the defendant gave conflicting statements, claiming he was engaged in a "sex-a-thon," yet later telling officers he was impotent.

For more information, contact Guy M. Vogrin, investigator / public information officer for the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office at 330-675-2485.