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## Fairfax man accused of kidnapping wife wins partial acquittal

*By Gary Klien, Marin Independent Journal*

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A Fairfax resident accused of beating his wife and trying to abduct her to Stockton was acquitted of kidnapping and criminal threats after a trial in Marin Superior Court.

Willie Orsillis Rhodes, 39, was found guilty of false imprisonment, domestic violence, witness intimidation and violating a court order.

Rhodes, a parolee for a prior felony threats conviction, could have faced more than 40 years in prison if convicted of all the charges, said his lawyer, Deputy Public Defender Michael Coffino. Rhodes could still face more than a decade in prison

based on the new convictions.

“The jury did a careful job evaluating the evidence and assessing the credibility of the main witness,” said Coffino, referring to the victim. “I respect their verdict. Several jurors said later they thought it was a sad story for both of the people involved.”

Rhodes remains in custody at the Marin County Jail pending sentencing before Judge Terrence Boren.

The incident occurred in September 2014. Fairfax police said Rhodes got into an argument and fight with the victim and prevented her from leaving the apartment during the night. Then he allegedly took her against her will toward Stockton, where he has family.

When they stopped at a gas station in Fairfield, the woman, who police said was badly bruised from being hit and kicked, ran away from Rhodes. Rhodes was arrested about two days later when police saw him leaving a bar in Fairfax.

Rhodes pleaded not guilty. The defense argued that the victim’s statements were inconsistent and lacked credibility. The defense also said that while Rhodes might have misled her about their destination, there was no evidence he used force or that she had reason to fear for her safety.

The jury reached its verdict Monday after a seven-day trial.

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