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Press Release

He took two TV's and left one fingerprint: Now he's left for jail

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When the first employee turned the key at the North Walpole Fish and Game Club at about 6 a.m., June 14, 2007, he looked up to see that the organization's two large-screen televisions were gone.

But the thief who lifted the televisions was kind enough to leave something else behind: his right thumbprint.

That thief, Richard Durante, age 44, of Sandwich, pled guilty to Breaking and Entering in the Nighttime to Commit a Felony and Larceny of Property worth more than \$250 in Norfolk Superior Court recently, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey. When he finishes his jail term, he is court ordered to attend substance abuse treatment as part of his sentence.

"Walpole Detective James O'Connell observed that a window screen on the exterior deck had been removed and was out of place. There were finger prints around that window," said District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey. "Detective O'Connell secured and submitted those prints to the state crime lab. On January 7, 2010, one of the fingerprints collected individualized to the right thumb of Richard Durante."

Assistant Norfolk District Attorney Carolyn Hely asked Judge Paul Troy to sentence Durante to 2 to 3 years in State Prison. Judge Troy imposed a sentence of 2 years in the House of Correction with 9 months to serve, the balance suspended for 2 years during which he must undergo substance abuse evaluation and treatment at a pre-arranged residential treatment program out of state.

District Attorney Morrissey praised the professional police work of the Walpole Police Department in developing the case. "Good solid police work produces good solid evidence and strong cases for us to bring to court," Morrissey said. "In this prosecution, that resulted in the defendant ending the case by admitting his guilt."

Any and all defendants mentioned are legally innocent until proven guilty.