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For Immediate Release

May 22, 2017

**MAN SENTENCED TO 18 YEARS IN PRISON FOR RAPING FEMALE RELATIVE
Defendant Also Sentenced to 20 Years Post-Release Supervision;
Will Register as Sexual Offender**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark announced that a man has been sentenced to 18 years in prison followed by 20 years post-release supervision for choking and raping a female relative in her apartment in December 2015.

District Attorney Clark said "This crime is especially heartbreaking as the victim was raped by one of her own family members. For this despicable act, the defendant will spend 18 years behind bars, have 20 years post-release supervision and must register as a Sexual Offender."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Russell Smith, 45, of Manhattan, was sentenced on May 19, 2017 to 18 years in prison and 20 years post-release supervision by Bronx Supreme Court Administrative Justice Robert Torres. Smith was convicted by a jury of first-degree Rape on Sept. 18, 2016.

According to trial testimony, on Dec. 20, 2015, Smith grabbed the now 40-year-old victim by her neck inside her apartment and raped her. DNA proved Smith had had sexual intercourse with her.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Samuel Hodge and Lauren Di Chiara of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau under the overall supervision of Joseph Muroff, Chief of the Special Victims Division.

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