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BRONX MAN SENTENCED TO SEVEN AND A HALF YEARS IN PRISON FOR STARTING DANGEROUS BLAZE Defendant Pleaded Guilty to Arson

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man has been sentenced to seven and a half years in prison for pouring lighter fluid into a bedroom window and then lighting it on fire. Inside the home was the mother of the defendant's child and their infant child-in-common, as well as the victim's father and his two minor children.

District Attorney Clark said, "The defendant got into an argument the night before with one of the victims, the mother of his child, then lit their home on fire. Luckily no one inside the home was injured, which included an infant and two other children who were rescued by their adult relatives who pulled down the burning curtains and put the flames out with a bucket of water."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Kamal Kerr, 34, was sentenced June 2, 2022 to seven and a half years in prison by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Marsha Michael. The defendant pleaded guilty to third-degree Arson on May 5, 2022.

According to the investigation, in the early morning hours of October 15, 2019, after getting into an argument with one of the victims the previous evening, the defendant went to the victims' home at Bronx Boulevard in the Williamsbridge section of the Bronx after picking up a jug of lighter fluid. He then went to the back of the home and poured the fluid into the bedroom window. Kerr then took debris from the backyard, ignited it, and left it in the window, starting the fire. The surrounding curtains erupted in flames while the family was inside the home.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sean McCauley of the Public Integrity Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Allison Green, Supervisor in the Public Integrity Bureau, under the supervision of Allison Riesel, Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau, Omer Wiczyk, Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau, and under the overall supervision of Denise Kodjo, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division, and Wanda Perez-Maldonado, Chief of the Investigations Division.



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District Attorney Clark thanked Assistant District Attorney Megan Leo of the Domestic Violence Bureau and Trial Preparation Assistant Megan Kane of the Public Integrity Bureau for their assistance with the case.

District Attorney Clark also thanked Fire Marshal Craig Gundersen and retired Fire Marshal Stephen Laureno from the FDNY Special Investigations Unit for their assistance in the investigation.

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