

Miller sentenced to 15 years for robbing store, beating grandparents

District attorney, lawyer say Ozark case an example of the harm drugs can cause

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The outcome of a sentence hearing in Ozark last Thursday was evidence of the devastation drugs can cause individuals and their families, Dale County District Attorney Kirke Adams said.

Jeremy Miller, 22, was denied probation by Dale County Circuit Judge P.B. Mclauchlin and sentenced to 15 years in prison for the attempted double murder of his grandparents, armed robbery of an Ozark convenience store and burglary, along with forgery charges.

Miller attacked his grandparents with a blunt object last August and then pulled a knife on the clerk at a Stop and Go on South Union Avenue. He had also been a suspect in a gas drive-off that occurred two weeks prior.

Miller was found by Ozark police in a "woodsy" area frequented by drug users, according to an article printed in the *Dothan Eagle*.

Adams said Miller pleaded blind to the charges and said in his own testimony that he was addicted to crystal methamphetamine at the time of the crimes.

Miller's lawyer, Tom Brant-

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Kirke Adams

Dale County district attorney

ley, requested then that Miller be able to complete a one-year drug rehabilitation program at Teen Challenge in Florida before serving any prison time. He had already completed six months of the program.

But Mclauchlin denied the request.

"I hope this shows young people how they can destroy their lives very quick when they get involved with drugs," Adams said. "On all accounts (Miller) was a good young man until he allowed drugs to hurt him and his family. It also damaged the lives of other people in the community."

Brantley said the defense was disappointed but accepted the ruling.

"This is just a classic example of what drugs can do to a very good young man," Brantley said.