

Judge gives purse snatcher 23 years

Cites 'depravity' of drug addiction in handing out longer-than-usual sentence

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A Lynchburg man who admitted to stealing purses from two women in their 70s was sentenced to 23 years in prison Friday.

Harrison B. Robinson, 35, was convicted of robbery, statutory burglary and two counts of grand larceny after pleading guilty in September. In addition to stealing from the two women, Robinson also burglarized the home of a woman who had given him a

place to live when he was homeless, stealing electronics and jewelry from her home.

He appeared to sob before being sentenced, telling his two victims present in the courtroom, "I'm truly sorry for what I've put them through."

Judge Mosby Perrow exceeded the 10-to-16 year sentence suggested under state sentencing commission guidelines — a formula meant to ensure consistency



Robinson

Robinson's first victim testified Friday that she was in the parking lot of the CVS drug store in the 2200 block of Langhorne Road on Nov. 19 get-

ting ready to get in the car when he approached her.

"This is a perfect example of the depravity that is a result of drug addiction," Perrow said.

Robinson's first victim testified Friday that she was in the parking lot of the CVS drug store in the 2200 block of Langhorne Road on Nov. 19 get-

ting ready to get in the car when he approached her.

"He told me to give (my wallet) to him or he would stab me," testified Carol Roakes, who was 73 at the time of the robbery.

Roakes said she doesn't go out at night very much anymore and is afraid of being alone.

On March 8, Robinson followed a disabled 74-year-old

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