

Bowie Blade-News / Bowie News

Nurse not guilty of assault at Bowie Health Center



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By **John McNamara** · Contact Reporter

jmcnamara@capgaznews.com

FEBRUARY 17, 2016, 5:31 PM

A former nurse charged with sexually assaulting a female patient at the Bowie Health Center in 2014 was found not guilty last week in Prince George's County Circuit Court.

The jury acquitted Jared Nathan Kline, 38, of Springfield, Va. of second-degree assault and fourth-degree sex offense. Kline faces similar charges in Washington, D.C.

"We feel that the evidence we had in this case warranted the charges brought against Mr. Kline," Prince George's County State's Attorney Angela Alsobrooks said in a statement after the one-day jury trial.

According to prosecutors, on the morning of Jan. 20, 2014, Kline — who was working as a nurse at the center — placed his clothed groin in the open hand of a female patient in an examining room while he

was searching her outstretched arm for a vein so he could draw blood.

The patient testified she had come to the center feeling ill from something she had eaten. Kline was the triage nurse who first treated her.

Prosecutors alleged when Kline went to check her other arm, he did the same thing. Kline then left the room and returned to administer the IV and while doing so, he again placed his clothed genitals in the open hand of her outstretched arm, prosecutors said.

"His defense was that it was accidental," said Nikki Lotze, Kline's lawyer. "Emergency rooms are very tight spaces and there was accidental contact between his groin and her hand."

Immediately after the incident, the victim notified the doctor and police responded.

Kline also worked at several Washington, D.C. hospitals, including George Washington University. Kline has four other cases pending with charges similar to this case, according to county prosecutors. He is expected to stand trial in the District on those charges in the spring.

Kline was not an employee of the Bowie Health Center. He came to work there through a referral from an unidentified nursing agency.

"At the time of his hire, his background check had no discrepancies," according to a statement from Erika Murray, a spokesman for the Dimensions Healthcare System, which operates the Bowie Health Center. Following the allegation at the Bowie Health Center, "he was terminated and not allowed to return to any of our facilities," according to the statement.

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