

15-Year-Old To Be Tried As Adult In Brutal Excelsior Springs Attack

News

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EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, MO (KCTV) - A woman helped save her own life after she was brutally attacked inside her Excelsior Springs home.



Court documents reveal that the woman woke up in her bed to an attacker stabbing her in the chest and shoulder.

"With all of the cuts and blood, it is amazing that she did make it to the front door," neighbor Tammy Peach said.

The attack started about 8 a.m. on March 10.

"She has to live with that fear every day and see the scars on her face. Her children have to see that," Peach said.

Newly released court documents detail how the woman fought her attacker for control of the weapon described as a hatchet or ax.

The fight spilled out into the hallway. She tried to run through her kitchen to her front door. Police say Johnson continued to hit her with the weapon, tried to choke her out and bashed a glass bowl over her head.

Once she managed to get near her front door, the 43-year-old woman gripped onto the outside of her house while she screamed for help. Police say 15-year-old Desmond L. Johnson yanked her by her hair to try to get her back inside.

According to these court documents, at one point during the attack, the woman used her daughter's soft black shoe to cover her face.

She said the attacker was picking up pieces of glass from the ground to cut her as he tried to hold her to the ground.

The victim's neighbors heard the woman call for help and called 911.

"My wife asked me to take my shirt off to stop the blood because she got cut around her neck," neighbor Robert Brown said.

Police say when officers arrived they could see a young man running away from the scene.

On the day of the attack, officers say Johnson was seen pacing - walking in and out of sight - to watch police at the crime scene several times throughout the day.

When police originally questioned him near the scene, they say Johnson's hands were shaking and he refused to make eye contact.

Police say after a while, Johnson came back to the scene yet again to report three of his belongings

had been stolen.

Officers say it was no coincidence those three items were found inside the victim's home, including Johnson's cell phone, a knife and a wooden stick that was sharpened on one end.

Police say they found DNA that matched the victim and Johnson's DNA on evidence found at the scene including a bloody bandage.

Johnson is now charged as an adult with burglary, assault and armed criminal action.

"It has been so peaceful. When we found out he was arrested and charged as an adult, my whole neighborhood was out here jumping for joy that day," Peach said. "I hope my friend gets justice. I hope he gets what he deserves."

Neighbors say it was her will to live for her family that helped her survive.

During the investigation, Johnson threatened at least two classmates on Facebook, court documents state.

In one of those threats, police say Johnson wrote, "If u approach me like that again, I'll have you look like ***'s mom (referring to the victim)."

Johnson is being held on a \$300,000 bond. He'll be back in court on Tuesday.