

Former BSO deputy convicted of raping handcuffed female prisoner

September 29, 2010 | By Tonya Alanez, Sun Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE — The female inmate knew it would be her word against a cop's when she accused a corrections deputy of raping her while he moved her from one jail to another.

But she also had DNA evidence to support her accusations.

On Tuesday, a jury convicted Charles Edward Floyd, now a former Broward Sheriff's Office corrections deputy, of raping the handcuffed prisoner.

When Floyd, 40, is sentenced Nov. 19, he faces a range of nearly 20 years in prison to life.

Before trial, he had turned down a plea offer of five years in prison to be followed by 20 years of probation.

"He was an officer and I was what they considered a criminal. It was very difficult to come forward," the Fort Lauderdale woman, now 32, said as she left the courthouse Tuesday. "I didn't think anybody was going to believe me. But I won, I stood up for myself."

She urged other victims to have the fortitude and strength to also come forward.

"For anyone else, I hope you have courage," she said tearfully. "No matter what authority they have or what position they hold, you should come forward. Justice is for everyone."

She told the jury the assault occurred on June 13, 2007, when she was one of three female inmates the deputy was transporting.

Floyd dropped off the other two women, she said, and then took her to a remote area behind a warehouse, where she said he told her: "I've been waiting for this all day."

He forced her to perform oral sex and raped her, she testified.

According to his arrest warrant, he told her: "This don't have to be a one-time thing."

The jury deliberated for two hours before finding Floyd guilty of kidnapping and two counts of sexual battery by a person in a position of control or authority.

During closing arguments, prosecutor Jodi Gress said other deputies, dispatch records and DNA evidence corroborated the victim's allegations.

"The most damning evidence of all is that his DNA was found in the victim's cervix," Gress said. "That should be all the evidence you need."

Floyd's defense attorney, Bob Nichols, argued his client was the "victim of a fraud" perpetuated

by a lying, convicted felon looking to file "a million dollar" civil lawsuit against Broward County if the former deputy was convicted.

The Sheriff's Office hired Floyd in November 2002 and fired him on Oct. 29, 2007.

The DNA results, Nichols argued, were not exact enough to definitively say that the semen found in the victim's body belonged to his client.

"Deputy Floyd did nothing here," Nichols said. "He's the victim here."

Upon hearing the first guilty verdict, a courtroom deputy handcuffed Floyd's right wrist to a chair. With his left hand, Floyd removed his tie and began emptying his pockets.

Floyd's wife, who attended the trial including closing arguments Tuesday morning, did not return to court to hear the afternoon verdict.

Tonya Alanez can be reached at tealanez@SunSentinel.com or 954-356-4542.