

# On the lam for 6 years, fugitive gets 2-year term

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MILFORD — A convicted arsonist who was tracked down in Indiana by the FBI six years after violating probation will serve two years in prison.

Winthrop Baker, 35, of Milford, pleaded guilty Thursday in Superior Court to violation of probation and first-degree failure to appear in court.

He is accused of violating probation after he was arrested for beating his elderly mother in 1991.

Judge Bruce Thompson sentenced him to serve two years for violating probation and five years, suspended after two years served, for failure to appear in court.

He also received three years of probation with special conditions, stipulating that he not live with his mother and that he undergo psychiatric evaluation and substance abuse treatment, according to court records.

The two-year prison terms are to be served concurrently.

His elderly mother, who is more than a foot shorter than her son, has appeared in court with her son since his arrest in February. But she was not present at his plea and sentencing.

"I think it's clear to police and to everyone involved that his mother has supported Winthrop through everything," said State's Attorney Mary M. Galvin.

"And that is not surprising. We see a lot of times that parents stand behind their kids."

In 1988, Baker was to serve three years in prison and three years of probation for torching a house in the Woodmont area, Galvin said. The gas jets were left on and it is very fortunate that no one was killed or seriously injured," she said.

A condition of his probation was that he not commit any other offenses.

But 3½ years later, on Nov. 25, 1991, Baker was arrested for pushing and kicking his elderly mother in their home. She was treated for fractured ribs.

She has denied that her son beat her, and claims he accidentally grabbed her too hard around her ribs when he tried pulling her up after she fell.

Baker failed to appear in court for those charges.

In February he was tracked down in Indianapolis by the FBI Violent Crime Fugitive Task Force.