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### **Atkinson Man to Serve Prison Sentence of More Than Five Decades for Robbery, Sex Assault**

BURGAW, NC – On May 29, 2025, a Pender County jury convicted Robert Ennis, age 46 of Atkinson, of Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon, two counts of First Degree Kidnapping, and two counts of Forcible First Degree Sex Offense. Judge Clinton Rowe sentenced Ennis to 52-73 years in prison.

On December 4, 2022, Ennis knocked on the door of a home in Rocky Point, NC. He and another individual (who has never been identified) forced their way into the home armed with handguns. There were five people in the home at the time. Ennis demanded money and took several hundred dollars from one of the individuals. He also forced the three women to strip naked and forced two of the women with a gun to their heads to perform oral sex on him. Before leaving, he took one of the women's keys and money.

The robbery and sexual assault were reported immediately to the Pender County Sheriff's Office, which began a thorough investigation. Ennis was located eight hours after the robbery when he wrecked his vehicle in Wilmington, NC. In the vehicle were the keys and money Ennis had taken from one of the women. Ennis was taken into custody and confessed to law enforcement. At trial, DNA evidence was presented linking Ennis to the sexual assaults. After a day and a half of evidence, the jury deliberated for 45 minutes and convicted Ennis of all charges.



Robert Ennis

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