

OVER A YEAR AGO, PHILLIP ATKINSON WAS JAILED FOR BEATING UP HIS MOTHER, AND FOR KILLING HIS GIRLFRIEND'S KITTEN IN A FIT OF ANGER.

NOW, THE LA CROSSE MAN WILL SPEND A YEAR IN JAIL, FOLLOWED BY PROBATION AND TREATMENT FOR ANGER AND DRINKING ISSUES. ATKINSON SAID IN COURT YESTERDAY THAT HAVING A CHILD HAS HELPED HIM WANT TO CHANGE. AND HIS GIRLFRIEND, THE CHILD'S MOTHER, AGREES THAT HIS SUPPORT HAS BEEN GOOD. PHILLIP'S MOTHER WROTE A LETTER TO JUDGE RAMONA GONZALEZ, SAYING CHILDHOOD TRAUMAS AND ATTENTION-DEFICIT PROBLEMS HAVE TROUBLED HIM FOR YEARS.