

# PRESS RELEASE FORM

---

**Defendant:** Shawn Vincent

**Charges:** First Degree Arson of a Dwelling x3, Second Degree Arson, Burglary of an Unoccupied Dwelling

**Dates of Crimes:** 10/30/2013, 7/5/2015

**Investigating Agencies:** State Bureau of Fire, Arson and Explosives Investigations; the Manatee County Sheriff's Office, and the U.S Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

**Date of Plea:** 9/18/2018

**Maximum Potential Sentence:** 30 years

**Minimum Mandatory Apply** (if so what): None

**Seeking any Sentencing Enhancement:** None

**Sentence or Sentencing Date:** 3/8/2019, 18 years in the Department of Corrections, followed by 12 years of probation.

**Any Interesting Facts or Circumstances:** Serial Arsonist Sentenced. This defendant by his own admission has set over 100 fires spanning a 30-year period. In one of the charged fires, there was a disabled male inside of the house when the defendant lit a motorcycle outside of the house on fire, causing the house to catch fire that spread throughout the house. The disabled victim had to be assisted out of the house as the fire spread. There was approximately \$220,000 in damage from that fire. In the other charged fire, this defendant lit a children's bedroom on fire in the middle of the night that caused extensive smoke and heat damage. Luckily the children were not sleeping in the room at the time because their mother was at the hospital with a medical emergency.

**Assistant States Attorneys:** Courtney Hollen and Rebecca Mueller

**ASA Quote:** On 3/8/2019 Judge Edward Nicholas sentenced Shawn Vincent (46, Bradenton) to 18 years in prison followed by 12 years of probation after pleading no contest, on September 18, 2018 to setting two occupied residential fires in Bradenton. Those early morning fires occurred on July 5, 2015 and October 30, 2013. According to Vincent's own statements in both his pretrial proffer and a letter to the Court, he set 100 fires, so far, spanning a 30-year period in Florida and New York. "Arson is a violent crime that not only destroys property but also negatively impacts the lives of citizens that reside in the neighborhoods" said ATF Special Agent in Charge Daryl McCrary. "I want to commend the efforts of the Detectives and Special Agents who together pursued this serial arsonist. The residents of Bradenton are safer today because of their efforts," said Assistant State Attorney Courtney Hollen.