



NEWS RELEASE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Springfield Man Pleads Guilty to Murder of Stepson

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that William Richard Jones, age 65, of Springfield, entered a guilty plea to the murder of his stepson, Trevor Reynolds.

Jones entered a guilty plea before the Honorable Dan Conklin to the charge of murder in the first degree contained in the felony information. The murder occurred on July 5, 2012, at the home the defendant shared with his wife and stepson located at 1421 E. Livingston in Springfield, Missouri. On July 5, 2012, Trevor's mother, Falecha Jones, called 911 and stated she believed her son's step-father shot her son while her son was sleeping.

Springfield Police officers arrived at the residence soon thereafter and contacted Falecha Jones near the front door. Falecha repeatedly told the arriving officers, "He killed my son." The officers located William Jones and noticed blood on one of his hands.

The officers then went to the bedroom where they located Trevor and observed a small hole in the front of his shirt and upon closer examination observed an apparent gunshot wound. The autopsy would later indicate that the cause of death was the gunshot wound to the chest. Officers located the gun in the kitchen and William Jones was placed under arrest.

During an interview with police, Falecha Jones reported that Trevor was her son and William was his step-father. Falecha reported William did not like one of Trevor's friends and was upset with Trevor because Trevor had the friend at their residence against his wishes on July 4<sup>th</sup> 2012.

Falecha reported there was a disturbance between William and Trevor on July 4, 2012 and she called the police. Falecha stated officers responded and she decided to

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remove Trevor and the friend from the location in order to diffuse the situation. Falecha reported she left the residence with the two boys and later returned to the house with Trevor. Falecha said Trevor apologized to William when they returned to the house.

Falecha reported William and Trevor became involved in another disturbance on July 4, 2012, after she and Trevor had returned to the house. Falecha stated William obtained a handgun during this second disturbance and she was able to talk William into putting the gun down. Falecha reported the police again responded to the residence. Falecha stated William told Trevor he would "kill" him during the second disturbance. Falecha reported she decided to place Trevor in a hotel room for the night in order to remove him from the residence. Falecha stated officers removed two guns from the residence, a handgun and a long gun. Falecha reported she did not believe William had any additional guns in the residence.

Falecha reported she returned Trevor to the residence on July 5, 2012, around 1200 hours. Falecha stated there were no problems between Trevor and William when they returned to the residence and that Trevor went to his bedroom to sleep after returning home. Falecha said William also went to his bedroom to sleep. Falecha reported she began to watch television but fell asleep. Falecha reported she awoke due to a loud noise that sounded like a firework. Falecha immediately looked into Trevor's bedroom and saw William standing in the bedroom holding a gun in his hand and saw "smoke" coming from the gun. Falecha reported she ran into the bedroom and saw blood on Trevor's shirt. Falecha reported William walked out of the room, placed the gun down, and sat down in a chair and began smoking a cigarette.

On July 8, 2012, William called Falecha from the Greene County Jail and told her that he is "sorry to break your heart like this" and "know I'd made a terrible mistake." Falecha asked William, "Can you answer me one question? Why?" William answered by telling Falecha that Trevor threatened his life. Falecha also asked, "Did you kill him while he was asleep?" William answered, "Yeah, I did." William also made these comments: "Be stupid to wake him up", "ain't no sense scaring somebody and then hurtin' them", "If you're gonna hurt 'em, you might as well hurt 'em when it hurts them the least."

Judge Conklin set a sentencing hearing for November 1, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. The Defendant waived a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole. The range of punishment for murder in the first degree includes two punishments: the death penalty and life in prison without the possibility of parole. In order to seek the death penalty, the State must prove at least one aggravated circumstance specifically listed in Missouri statutes. Because there were no statutory aggravating circumstances in this case which matched those listed in the statutes, there is only one punishment available life without the possibility of parole.

This case is being prosecuted by Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson and First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Russell Dempsey. It was investigated by the Springfield

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Police Department and Detective Christopher Barb was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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