



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE TO SEEK DEATH PENALTY
IN PURSUIT OF JUSTICE FOR HAILEY OWENS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that he filed the State's Notice of Intent to Seek the Death Penalty in the case against Mr. Craig Wood. The Notice of Intent to Seek the Death Penalty informs the Defendant of the State's intent to seek the ultimate punishment. If a jury finds that at least one aggravating circumstance is proven beyond a reasonable doubt, the jury can consider imposing a death sentence.

The statutory aggravating circumstances that are alleged are:

1. The murder in the first degree was outrageously or wantonly vile, horrible or inhuman in that it involved torture, or depravity of mind [Section 565.032.2(7), RSMo];
2. The murder in the first degree was committed for the purpose of avoiding, interfering with, or preventing a lawful arrest or custody in a place of lawful confinement, of defendant [Section 565.032.2(10), RSMo];
3. The murder in the first degree was committed while the defendant was engaged in the perpetration of or the attempt to perpetrate a felony of any degree of rape, sodomy, or kidnapping [Section 565.032.2(11), RSMo];
4. The murdered individual was a witness or potential witness in any past or pending investigation or past or pending prosecution, and was killed as a result of her status as a witness or potential witness [Section 565.032.2(12), RSMo].

Mr. Patterson cautions that the charges contained in the felony information are merely allegations and that the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court. The Missouri Supreme Court ethics rules prohibit comments on the facts or investigation of this case beyond those contained in the public record.

This case is being prosecuted by Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson. It is being investigated by the Springfield Police Dept. and Detective Neal McAmis is the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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