



NEWS RELEASE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAN CONVICTED IN BEATING DEATH OF GIRLFRIEND

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that on Friday, January 20, 2023, Greene County Circuit Judge Jerry Harmison announced his verdict finding the defendant, Shane Mackey, guilty of the murder of his girlfriend. The verdict follows a three day bench trial conducted in December 2022.

The evidence was that on November 9, 2020, at approximately 5:30 am Republic Police Officer Dustin Lowry was dispatched to 424 N. Douglas for a wellbeing check. Upon arrival he found the victim on her back on the bedroom floor and her boyfriend, the defendant, was doing chest compressions on her. Officer Lowry could not detect a pulse. EMS arrived and concluded she was deceased.

The Defendant was interviewed by Republic Police Department Detective Jeff Romero. The defendant told Detective Romero that he and the victim had been to a restaurant for dinner and drinks and that after dinner he noticed the victim was gone. He said he walked home which took thirty minutes and found the victim at home with blood all over her and the residence in disarray. He further told detective Romero that the victim made coffee and refused to let him call 911 or take her to the hospital because she did not have health insurance. He also said that she would not say how she got to the residence or how she was injured.

Dr. Deiter Duff, a forensic pathologist and the Greene County Medical Examiner, testified on behalf of the state. Dr. Thomas Bennett, forensic pathologist for the states of Wyoming and Montana, testified on behalf of the defense. They both agreed the cause of death for Rachel Sanders was blunt force injuries to the head and neck. The both agreed that after all injuries occurred, she would not be able to stand, walk, and talk. They both agreed that Rachel Sanders died at the hands of another.

Judge Harmison made the following findings in his verdict finding the defendant guilty of murder in the second degree:

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Mackey, 2031-CR04776-01

Based on the totality of the circumstances, it defies logic that [the defendant] would not have called 911 upon discovering his fiancé brutally beaten and the house in total disarray with blood in every room of the house. [The victim's] text to her son supports the conclusion she walked home and did not receive a ride. Furthermore, both physicians indicated that after all the injuries occurred, [the victim] would not have been able to stand in the kitchen and push buttons on a coffee pot. Therefore, it is unbelievable that she sustained any injury before [the defendant] arrived home. Additionally, considering the multiple scratches and abrasions sustained by [the defendant], the fact [the victim] had defensive wounds, and the fact that [the defendant's] DNA was the major component on [the victim's] hands, this Court finds beyond a reasonable doubt [the defendant] repeatedly struck [the victim] during a physical altercation, causing blunt force injuries to her head and neck which resulted in her death. Therefore, the Defendant is found guilty on Count I, murder in the second degree.

The defendant is subject to a sentence in the Department of Corrections of ten years to life with a possibility of parole. Murder in the second degree is a dangerous felony and the defendant will be required to serve eighty-five percent of his sentence before being eligible for parole. Judge Harmison set a sentencing hearing for April 7, 2023 at 1:30 pm following a sentencing assessment report by the Division of Probation and Parole.

First Assistant Prosecutors Phil Fuhrman and Elizabeth Fax are prosecuting this case. The case was investigated by the Republic Police Department and Detective James Stephenson was the lead investigator.

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