



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Woman found guilty for role in 2014 murder

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Kearnstain N. Sleeth, 27, of Springfield, Missouri was convicted today by a Greene County Jury for her role in the death of Curtis Payne.

Sleeth was found guilty of felony murder and first degree burglary. The jury deliberated for over 6 hours before returning its verdict.

Evidence was presented at trial that Curtis Payne was killed when three teenagers entered his home with the intent to assault him. During the burglary Payne was shot several times by two of the teenagers. Evidence was also presented that the defendant who was 23 years old at the time, drove the teenagers over to Mr. Payne's home knowing they were armed with guns with the intent to assault Mr. Payne. The defendant then drove them from the crime scene after Mr. Payne was killed and took the teenagers near Fellows Lake where they threw the guns in a field.

During an interview with Springfield Police Department Detectives, the defendant acknowledged that she drove the teenagers to the man's home knowing they intended to assault him.

The jury trial was presided over by The Honorable Calvin Holden. Judge Holden set a sentencing hearing for April 6, 2018 1:30PM following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

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