



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Guilty Verdict in Murder Trial of Jason Kumnick

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Jason Kumnick, 45, of Springfield, Missouri was convicted today by a Greene County Jury of Murder in the Second Degree, Armed Criminal Action, and Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

Jason Kumnick was found guilty of the murder of Ben Jester, which occurred on December 7, 2014. The evidence at trial established that the defendant chased the victim approximately a quarter of a mile and shot him in front of a house on North Main in Springfield. After the homicide, the defendant's DNA was compared to blood that was left at the scene of the murder. That comparison showed that the DNA was consistent with the Defendant's DNA. In a post-Miranda interview, Kumnick told a detective that he was not involved in Jester's death and could not explain why his DNA might be at the crime scene. At trial, his attorneys argued that he shot and killed the victim in self defense. The jury deliberated approximately three hours before returning its verdict.

The jury trial was presided over by The Honorable David Jones. The defendant is subject to a sentence of 10 years to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole on the Second Degree Murder charge. He is subject to a sentence of at least three years imprisonment without the possibility of probation on the Armed Criminal Action count. The charge of Possession of a Firearm by a Felon carries a range of up to 1 years in the County Jail or up to 15 years in the Department of Corrections because the defendant was found by the Court to be a prior and persistent felony offender. Judge Jones set a sentencing hearing for November 20, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v.
Kumnick, 1631-CR08381-01

This case was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and former Detective Kent Shipley was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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