



NEWS RELEASE
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
DAN PATTERSON

Contact: Rhonda Ogden, Office Manager – (417) 868-4061
1010 Boonville
Springfield, MO 65802

11/20/2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

60 Year Sentence in 2014 Homicide Case

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Jason Kumnick, 46, of Springfield, Missouri was sentenced today for second degree murder, armed criminal action, and being a felon in possession of a firearm in connection with the 2014 homicide of Benjamin Jester.

Kumnick was sentenced by The Honorable David Jones to life imprisonment, or 30 years, with the possibility of parole for second degree murder and 30 years imprisonment for armed criminal action. Those two sentences are to run consecutive to each other. Kumnick also received a sentence of 15 years imprisonment for the charge of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. The 15 year sentence will run concurrent to the other sentences in this case.

Kumnick was found guilty of the murder of Ben Jester following a jury trial in September 2018. 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.

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

###