



NEWS RELEASE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BROWN PLEADS GUILTY TO VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Joshua K. Brown, 22, of Florissant, Missouri, entered a guilty plea to voluntary manslaughter and armed criminal action and was sentenced to prison yesterday, August 8, 2013.

The defendant pleaded guilty for events occurring on May 5, 2012. On that day, the victim, Javon Carter, and two friends, Brandon McDonald and Tremon Brewer, went to the defendant's home at 1134 S. Maryland. These three individuals went to confront the defendant about allegations that they had stolen a safe from the defendant. Carter, McDonald, and Brewer entered the defendant's home at which time the defendant retrieved a handgun. The defendant was at home with his girlfriend along with Mr. Dhamin Harvey and his girlfriend. After a brief conversation inside, everyone went outside. Outside, Harvey and Brewer engaged in a fist fight. The defendant and Carter agreed to box one on one. During this fight, the defendant pulled the gun and shot Carter in the arm and in the face.

The State amended this charge from the A felony of murder in the second degree to the B felony of voluntary manslaughter. The State believes this outcome was appropriate under all of the circumstances in this case. The defendant's friends and the victim's friends provided differing versions of the events. If this case were to go to trial, the prior felony conviction of Tremon Brewer for burglary and the pending felonies of unlawful use of a weapon of Brandon McDonald would be admissible to attack their credibility. Under the terms of this agreement, the defendant admitted that he knowingly shot Carter but did so under the influence of sudden passion and waived any claims of justification under the castle doctrine.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Brown, 1231-CR03341

The range of punishment on voluntary manslaughter is from five years to fifteen years in the Missouri Department of Corrections. Armed criminal action has a minimum mandatory punishment of three years in the Missouri Department of Corrections. Pursuant to the plea agreement, the defendant was sentenced by The Honorable Thomas Mountjoy to ten years in the Missouri Department of Corrections for voluntary manslaughter and three years in the Missouri Department of Corrections for armed criminal action. The defendant did not have any prior criminal history.

**This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney T. Myers. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Dept. and Detective Allen Neal was the lead investigator assigned to the case.**

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