

# State of South Carolina

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## *News Release*

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### **Georgia man convicted of Voluntary Manslaughter for killing his wife on Christmas day**

**Charleston, S.C.** – After three hours of deliberation, a Charleston County jury found Bobby Gene Sloan (DOB 12/22/1948) guilty of Voluntary Manslaughter for the shooting death of his wife on Christmas Day 2008. Circuit Court Judge Roger M. Young, Sr., sentenced Sloan to prison for a term of 20 years.

Assistant Solicitors Winston “Trip” Lawton, III and Frederick “Trip” Riesen prosecuted the 3-day trial. During opening statements, Assistant Solicitor Lawton told the jury that the Georgia couple was visiting family in Charleston for the Christmas Holidays.

Darlene Sloan was shot in the forehead as her mother watched. Witnesses testified that Mrs. Sloan and her husband began arguing in the car on the way home from a nightclub in North Charleston after getting lost. A heated argument and physical altercation ensued. Upon arrival to where they were staying on Rutledge Avenue at around 2:15 a.m., Bobby Sloan got out of the car, grabbed a .38 caliber revolver from the trunk and shot his 50-year-old wife in the head at close range. She died on scene.

Mrs. Sloan’s mother, who was standing next to her, testified that she saw the defendant raise his hand towards her daughter shortly before she saw a bright flash. She then saw her daughter fall to the ground.

Throughout the trial, the defense argued that the gun accidentally fired after the defendant pulled it to intimidate his wife.

“Darlene meant the world to her family. When she died, her son lost a mother and a father. We’re glad the defendant was held accountable for his selfish acts,” said Assistant

Solicitor Lawton. "I hope the conviction and sentence will bring Darlene's mother and son some peace of mind during this difficult holiday season."

"The latest stats show that South Carolina consistently ranks in the top 10 states for women being killed by men. The rate of women killed by men they knew is almost twice that of the national average," said Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson. Wilson stated, "We refused the notion of an "accident" being someone threatening their spouse during a heated argument, waving a handgun in their face and putting a bullet in their head. Fortunately, the judge and jury did, too."