

News Release

For Immediate Release
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Jury convicts Leonard Goodwin for 2006 murder of his stepson.
Charleston, S.C. – June 3, 2011

Solicitor Scarlett Wilson announced that a Charleston County jury has found Leonard Goodwin (DOB 6/23/1953) guilty of murder for the 2006 killing of his stepson Eric Robinson. The jury deliberated for approximately two hours Friday afternoon before handing down their verdict. Judge Kristi Harrington sentenced Mr. Goodwin to life in prison based on the gruesome facts of this case as well as the defendant's 1987 conviction for Assault and Battery with Intent to Kill. Wilson stated, "We are grateful that Judge Harrington gave the max for a man who devastated a family and then thumbed his nose at justice for three years."

According to Assistant Solicitors Culver Kidd and Adam Young, who prosecuted the case, on April 3, 2006, Leonard Goodwin shot Eric Robinson, apparently because Robinson was using the home telephone while Goodwin was expecting a call. Robinson's girlfriend, who was on the telephone line with him, overheard the two argue and then the line disconnect. Robinson was never seen alive again. Some 24 days later, on April 27, 2006, Mary Anne Robinson, Eric Robinson's mother who also was Goodwin's wife, called the police due to the smell coming from under their home. When North Charleston Police Department responded, they discovered Robinson's partially decomposed body, Leonard Goodwin went on the run and remained a fugitive from justice until his arrest in September of 2009.

An autopsy revealed that Robinson had been shot in the head. Other evidence revealed that Goodwin treated the body with lime and other chemicals in an attempt to keep the body from being discovered. DNA evidence from blood recovered from the porch of the Goodwin-Robinson home matched Eric Robinson. A liquor bottle with Goodwin's DNA was recovered near the body and lime bags that were in the crawl space of the home.

Assistant Solicitor Kidd stated, "Much of the evidence in this case was circumstantial, but through the hard work of the North Charleston Police Department, SLED, and the victim's family, the pieces of this puzzle were put together and justice was served."

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