

# *News Release*

For Immediate Release  
March 30, 2015

**Charleston, S.C. – March 30, 2015**

Solicitor Scarlett Wilson announced the following regarding the prosecution of Sierra Shivers:

Domestic Violence is a serious problem in this community and we are committed to holding abusers accountable. It is imperative, however, that we seek justice in a fair and objective manner.

From the outset, Assistant Solicitor Kelly LaPlante and our office diligently investigated the domestic violence claim against Sierra Shivers in anticipation of trial. We immediately identified several obstacles to prosecution and worked with Charleston County Sheriff's detectives in an attempt to overcome them.

Initially, we were concerned with the victim's six-hour delay in reporting the incident. The delay in and of itself was not a bar to prosecution but it certainly would be an issue at trial. The victim claims she went to sleep for several hours after the alleged attack and only gained the courage to report hours later. Next, Detectives noticed that the photographs of the victim's injury shown to them by the victim were not consistent with the victim's reports of the way the injury was inflicted. The victim claimed Shivers struck her in the face with his hands/fist. The Detective reported that the photographed injury depicted a linear mark down the victim's face consistent with blunt force caused by something with a distinct edge, such as a door, door frame or the like. The injury was from the eyebrow to the chin and did not look like one that could have been caused by a hand or fist. Finally, and most importantly, the victim was extremely specific about the time and location of the alleged abuse. She reported that Shivers punched her in the face five times while he was driving her to a hotel. Mr. Shivers, however, provided an audio recording made during the entire car ride and it is obvious from the recording that there is no physical abuse while the two were in the car. The victim confirmed the recording was from the car ride in question but claimed the recording was altered. In an effort to confirm the victim's claim, we asked SLED to analyze the recording. SLED concluded that the recording was continuous, unedited and unaltered. The recording completely contradicts the victim's account of the events that day.

We, along with the detectives, have concluded that we cannot prove the case against Mr. Shivers beyond a reasonable doubt. We determined the victim's allegations in this case are contradicted by the objective evidence. Both agencies met with the victim in this case on Friday and we are dismissed the charges against Mr. Shivers today.

###