

News Release

Contact: Naomi Nation
naomi@scsolicitor9.org
(843) 958-1945

For Immediate Release
October 2, 2013

Moncks Corner Man David Penn Convicted of Murder and Sentenced to Thirty-Five years in Prison

Moncks Corner, S.C. – A Berkeley County Jury found defendant, David Penn, guilty of Murder and Grand Larceny on Tuesday. Circuit Court Judge R. Markley Dennis Jr. sentenced Penn to thirty-five years for the Murder and a concurrent five year sentence on Grand Larceny.

The Moncks Corner victim, 55 year old, Kathy Chrastina, was a good Samaritan who had tried to help the defendant by giving him a job, lending him money and offering to give him assistance in finding a home and getting food stamps. She was murdered after the defendant started using drugs again and she attempted to sever her ties to him. Assistant Solicitor Anne Williams said, “It was particularly sad that the kindness the victim showed the defendant was the very thing that made her vulnerable to the defendant’s violent actions.”

There was no sign of forced entry to the victim’s home where she was found strangled to death with a cord from her computer. The defendant stole several items from the victim, including a bracelet owned by her deceased husband, before stealing her van and locking the door behind him. The victim was not discovered for three days, and officers had to force entry to her home before finding her body.

After the attack, Penn checked into a local motel and used crack cocaine for days before he finally was arrested. His DNA was recovered from the victim’s van, which he had abandoned, and he was captured on surveillance video at the local Walgreen’s where officers later discovered the contents of the victim’s purse in the dumpster. The case was prosecuted by Williams and Assistant Solicitor Colleen Dixon. The defendant will be 87 years old at the completion of his sentence and will not be eligible for parole.

###