

State of South Carolina



Charleston County
101 Meeting Street, Suite 400
Charleston, SC 29401
Phone (843) 958-1900
Fax (843) 958-1905

Berkeley County
300-B California Avenue
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
Phone (843) 723-3800 ext. 4529
Fax (843) 719-4588

SCARLETT A. WILSON

Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit

Life in Prison for Hanahan Man Who Killed His Wife and Labrador Retriever Before Staging Break-In and Attack

Moncks Corner, S.C. – Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that last Friday, a Berkeley County jury convicted Matthew Garrett Speck, age 37, following a five-day trial for a Murder in the Eagle Landing neighborhood of Hanahan. He was also convicted of Ill Treatment of Animals and Possession of a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime both arising from the same incident. Assistant Solicitors F. Alexander Myers and Nicholas Young prosecuted the case.

On June 5, 2020, at approximately 5:00 a.m., Matthew Garrett Speck shot his wife Caitlin Conrad Speck while she slept. After shooting Caitlin, Speck shot and killed their dog, Bailey Mae. Speck then shot himself in the arm and torso to create superficial wounds to trick police into believing his claim that home invaders had attacked all of them. After a diligent investigation involving forensic evidence, witness statements, and Speck's five-hour interview by detectives from the Hanahan Police Department, Matthew Speck was arrested for killing both his wife Caitlin and their dog Bailey Mae.

During the trial, the State introduced evidence against Speck including testimony from medical experts, crime scene technicians, and testimony from Speck's girlfriend who testified that Speck told her that he was going to divorce his wife and they were moving away together to start a new life. Evidence showed that before the murder, Speck researched homicidal strangulation, choking death, and cyanide poisoning. Finally, a former co-worker of Speck's testified that Speck had complained about his marriage.

At sentencing, Myers requested the Defendant face no less than life in prison. Circuit Court Judge Deadra Jefferson sentenced Speck to life in prison without parole on the Murder, five years on the Ill Treatment of an Animal charge, and five years on the Possession of a Weapon During a Violent Crime to run concurrently. "Speck earned his sentence after his brazen betrayal and premeditation," said Assistant Solicitor F. Alexander Myers.

###