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*Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit*

For Immediate Release  
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## **Michigan Man gets Life in Prison for Violent Murder and Home Invasion of Ex Girlfriend**

**Moncks Corner, S.C.** –Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that a Berkeley County jury convicted defendant Edward Mark Fabian Hannah, of Murder, Burglary 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, and Assault and Battery 1<sup>st</sup> Degree. Judge Thomas W. Cooper, Jr. sentenced Hannah to life in prison for Murder and Burglary 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and the maximum sentence of 10 years on Assault and Battery 1<sup>st</sup> Degree.

The victim, Birthener “Joy” Joseph, 58, of Summerville had moved in June of 2021 to South Carolina to live with her daughter and end her relationship with Hannah. Hannah flew from Michigan and arrived uninvited to the victim’s home on September 2, 2021. After law enforcement was called, he departed from the residence before their arrival but remained in the immediate vicinity.

Three nights later, on September 5, 2021, Hannah kicked in the back door of the residence around 3am, breaking the deadbolted door. When he entered the residence, he attempted to assault the 12-year-old granddaughter of the victim, before being confronted by the 13-year-old grandson of the victim. He found Ms. Joseph in the hallway and inflicted blunt force trauma on her, in addition to stabbing her with scissors.

As the assault was ongoing, the 12 year old granddaughter was trapped in her bedroom and made an escape through her bedroom window. She and her 13 year old brother, who had rescued their 11-month-old niece from the home, ran to a neighbor’s home and called 911. Berkeley County Sheriff’s Office deputies Michael Donovan and Brandon Williams arrived within minutes, but the defendant had already fled.

Hannah was spotted on a nearby Ring camera video minutes later. He was apprehended less than a mile away on foot by Deputy Devonte Rumph shortly after. The children identified their attacker immediately and he was apprehended without incident.

First responders transported the victim to Trident Medical Hospital, where she was treated by the trauma team for her life-threatening injuries. Ms. Joseph survived the initial attack, but suffered permanent brain damage and ultimately succumbed to her injuries on April 28, 2022.

The murder was a culmination of abuse by Hannah who was enraged that the victim had broken off the relationship and had stopped taking his calls. Evidence presented at trial showed a pattern of stalking and harassing behavior to the victim and her family.

During the 4 day trial, Assistant Solicitors Julie Rochester and Michael Secrist presented evidence from the juvenile victims, first responders, law enforcement, DNA experts, physicians, and a forensic cell phone expert. Berkeley County Sheriff's Department's Case agent, Lt. John Caddell, was one of the first at the scene the night of the crimes, and also testified at trial. Rochester praised the courage of the child witnesses in the case: "The quick thinking and bravery of the children in this home not only saved their lives that night, but their testimony in court helped convict their grandmother's murderer".

The 57 year old defendant had prior convictions in multiple jurisdictions for Aggravated Assault, Robbery with use of a Deadly Weapon, Rape by force, Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Larceny, Assault, Resisting a police officer, and Breaking and Entering. The State served Hannah with notice to seek Life without Parole on the Murder and Burglary First Degree charges which the Court was required to impose once the jury returned a guilty verdict.

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