

News Release

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

Plea of Manslaughter results in 30-year sentence

Charleston, S.C. – April 26, 2017

Forty-eight-year-old Alberto Martinez-Villa, of Mount Pleasant SC, yesterday entered a plea of guilty to voluntary manslaughter and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime in the stabbing death of his wife, Augustine Hernandez-Hernandez, age 32. Circuit Judge R. Markley Dennis sentenced him to a term of thirty (30) years for voluntary manslaughter and five (5) years for the weapons charge, to run concurrently in the South Carolina Department of Corrections. Under the sentencing law governing voluntary manslaughter, Martinez-Villa is not eligible for parole. Assistant Solicitor Mark Bourdon prosecuted the case.

According to Mount Pleasant Police reports, Martinez–Villa contacted them during the early morning hours of November 29, 2014, to report his wife missing. He said he had not seen her since the previous afternoon. Later that day, the victim’s partially clothed body was located in the yard of an abandoned house in North Charleston. She died as a result of multiple stab wounds to her chest and back.

After giving conflicting statements to investigators, Martinez-Villa eventually admitted to stabbing his wife. He claimed that she pulled a knife on him during a heated argument while driving in their car. He said he stabbed her as he was pushing the knife away. He said that in a panic he removed some of her clothing and drove to North Charleston where he dumped her body. He then led detectives to various areas in Mount Pleasant where he disposed of her clothing, bloody car components, and the knife.

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