

# State of South Carolina



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## **Man who harassed woman for months before brutally stabbing her to death sentenced to 35 Years**

**Charleston, S.C.--** Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that Terry Kelly, who stabbed Tennille Grant to death on April 22, 2018, pled guilty on the morning of his trial, which was set to begin Monday, June 7. Ms. Grant's family saw this as one more step in his manipulating and controlling them and the system, after they had already waited years for justice. Deputy Solicitor Anne Williams stated, "We were prepared to go to trial and wish the family had not had to go through the painful process of reviewing evidence and preparing to testify." Deputy Solicitor Williams prosecuted the case along with Assistant Solicitor Daniel Cooper and Deputy Chief Investigator Josh Cheney.

Detective Charlie Benton of the North Charleston Police Department addressed the Court at Kelly's sentencing informing the Honorable Judge R. Markley Dennis, Jr. that "South Carolina consistently ranks among the worst States for the number of women killed by men." Detective Benton implored the Court to sentence Mr. Kelly above the minimum sentence due to Kelly's relentless pattern of abusing Ms. Grant, and the brutal nature of her murder.

Detective Benton, who investigated the case, went on to say that "Tennille Grant did everything the justice system asks of domestic violence victims, and she still died a violent death at the hands of her abuser. In the two months leading up to her murder, Ms. Grant made several reports to law enforcement, followed up on each report with documentation, moved repeatedly to avoid her abuser and made sure that the security officer at her new residence was aware of his name and description."

On the day she was killed, Ms. Grant had just returned to her apartment when Kelly accosted her as she exited her vehicle. Kelly stabbed her eleven times and fled the scene. Grant made it a few yards to her neighbor's apartment before collapsing on his kitchen floor and bleeding to death.

After hearing from Detective Benton, Deputy Solicitor Williams, two of Ms. Grant's adult children, Kelly's defense attorney and Kelly himself, Mr. Kelly was sentenced. Judge Dennis told the defendant that he "de-erved life," but ultimately sentenced Kelly to the minimum 30 years on the Murder charge—which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison—and 5 years on the accompanying weapons charge, to run consecutively.

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