

# State of South Carolina



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**SCARLETT A. WILSON**

*Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit*

For Immediate Release  
March 22, 2019

## **Aaron McKenzie Capers Sentenced to 80 years in Prison for Sexual Assault and Murder for Hire scheme of 81 year old victim.**

*Moncks Corner, SC*– Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that on Thursday, March 21, 2019, a Berkeley County jury convicted defendant Aaron McKenzie Capers of Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree, Burglary in the First Degree, Armed Robbery, Kidnapping, and Possession of a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime. Judge R. Markley Dennis sentenced Capers to a total of 80 years.

The 82 year old victim, testified that on the afternoon of December of 2017 she answered her door to a man dressed in black clothing and a mask who pushed his way into her house. She told the jury that the shock of the intrusion caused her to collapse on the floor but Capers picked her up and forced her into a guest bedroom. The elderly widow, who lived alone, was then forced to perform a sex act while being threatened with a knife. When Capers went into another room, she tried to escape but was dragged back into the master bedroom and pushed into a closet as he rifled through her personal belongings. Eventually, Capers demanded money from the victim's purse but also wanted her credit card PIN number which she could not remember. As he escorted her to the garage, so that they could drive to the bank, she escaped and ran across the street.

A neighbor testified that she heard screaming outside her door at about 2:00 pm and opened her door to find the victim hysterical at her front door. An ambulance transported the victim to MUSC where she suffered a stress-induced heart attack. Medical experts testified about the victim's condition and described the damage to her heart, and bruises on her body which corroborated her description of the attack.

While the victim was being treated for her injuries, eyewitnesses saw a person matching Capers description running to a home owned by his father, just blocks away from the crime scene. He was arrested after the mask described in the incident was located in that home and he was caught on surveillance tape using the victim's credit card. Forensic experts testified that DNA matching Aaron Capers was found on the victim and on clothing she was wearing at the time of the attack.

Once Capers was arrested, he attempted to hire a hit-man to kill the victim in order to eliminate her testimony. Capers approached a known gang member in his cell and asked the other inmate to kill the victim for \$2500.00. That gang member immediately contacted his attorney and turned over notes that

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*State vs Aaron McKenzie Capers cont.*

Capers had written, including a detailed map of the victim's residence. At trial, the would be hit-man testified that he came forward because he wasn't going to kill an old lady. "I've done a lot of bad things but I am not going to kill an innocent victim". Assistant Solicitor, Anne Williams praised the victim for her courage in testifying. "She was terrified to face her attacker in court, but she showed enormous resilience by taking the stand; Mr Capers underestimated her".

Capers was sentenced to 50 years on Burglary in the First Degree which the Judge order to run consecutive to the maximum penalty of 30 years on Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree, for a total of 80 years. He also imposed the maximum penalties of 30 years each on Kidnapping and Armed Robbery, and 5 years on the charge of Possession of a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime to run concurrent to the 80 year sentence. Capers will have to serve 85% of his sentence before being eligible for parole.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant Solicitor, Anne Williams and Deputy Solicitor, Bryan Alfaro.

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