

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

For Immediate Release
May 10, 2019

Woman Sentenced to Life in Prison for Brutal Murder of Roommate

Charleston, SC– Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that a Charleston County jury found Carmie Josette Nelson, of Summerville, guilty of Murder. The jury deliberated returned the verdict late Thursday afternoon after four days of trial. The Honorable J. C. Nicholson, Jr. sentenced Nelson to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Chief Deputy Solicitor D. Bruce DuRant and Assistant Solicitor Daniel W. Cooper prosecuted this case for the Ninth Circuit Solicitor's Office. Chief Investigator Ray Haupt assisted in the prosecution of this case.

Testimony at trial revealed that on April 2, 2017, Carmie Nelson brutally murdered her roommate in the Pines of Gahagan neighborhood in Summerville. The victim, Jordan Brooke Lum, had befriended Nelson in February 2017 and had offered Nelson the opportunity to move in with her at her home on Angora Way in the Pines of Gahagan. By the end of March 2017, the relationship between Nelson and Lum had deteriorated to the point that Nelson had enlisted the help of her estranged husband, Daniel Nelson, in devising several nefarious plans regarding Lum. On the morning of April 2, 2017, text messages showed that Nelson was enraged at Lum for calling the police and that Daniel Nelson, who lived in a homeless camp in North Charleston, was heading to Angora Way to assist his wife in an attack against Lum. However, by the time Daniel arrived at the residence on Angora Way that afternoon, Lum was already dead. Lum suffered over 110 wounds to her head, neck, torso, and arms, inflicted by knives, a hammer, and other objects.

Carmie and Daniel Nelson spent the next two days drinking alcohol, taking pills, and cleaning up the bloody crime scene which resulted from the brutal murder of Lum. On April 4, 2017, Carmie Nelson's anger turned towards her husband and she started making threats against him. As a result, he left the residence and called 911 to report the murder of Lum to police shortly after 9:00PM that night. Prior to calling police, Daniel Nelson secretly recorded two conversations with Carmie, where she was heard threatening him and also describing the gory details of how she killed Lum, hitting her again and again

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

State vs Carmie Josette Nelson cont.

and not stopping. Daniel cooperated with law enforcement and prosecutors and described the events leading up to the death of Jordan Lum, as well as the aftermath, in detail to the jury during the trial.

Chief Deputy Solicitor DuRant stated that “The jury saw right through Carmie Nelson’s lies and attempts to blame her husband for this heinous crime. Her recorded statements two days after the murder and her text messages in the days leading up to the murder clearly showed her hatred and vitriol towards Jordan Lum and left no doubt as to who was responsible for her brutal murder. Thanks to the hard work of Lieutenant Ken Driscoll and the Summerville Police Department, as well as the attentiveness and swift decision by the jury, Carmie Nelson will spend the rest of her life in prison where she belongs.”

###