

State of South Carolina



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Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit

For Immediate Release
May 17, 2018

Domestic Violence Murder Conviction Brings Life in Prison for Edward Isaiah Nelson Sentenced

Moncks Corner, S.C. –Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that on Wednesday May 16, a Berkeley County jury convicted defendant Edward Isaiah Nelson of Murder. Judge Kristi L. Harrington sentenced Nelson to life in prison.

Shonda Davis was found stabbed to death after neighbors heard her screaming for help outside her Moncks Corner Apartment. Ms. Davis was walking up to her front door when she was surprised by Nelson who began attacking her with a butcher knife. Several neighbors, including two young children, witnessed Nelson stabbing the victim after she fell to the ground. The attack was over so quickly, that witnesses were unable to get to the victim before she sustained fatal wounds and the defendant ran away. Ms Davis' purse was still on her arm when Police arrived at the scene.

The victim had plans to get up early the next day and celebrate her son's second birthday in Myrtle Beach. Fortunately, the child was already there with relatives when the murder occurred. Nelson fled the scene and hid in nearby woods while Moncks Corner Officers and Berkeley County Deputies searched the area through the night; he narrowly escaped capture after banging on a resident's door in a nearby neighborhood. Nelson was arrested the next day, after one of his friends cooperated with the Moncks Corner Police Department. During the three-day trial, Assistant Solicitors Anne Williams and Wilton H. McNeely presented evidence from eyewitnesses, first responders, investigators, and DNA and medical experts. A family member testified about a call to Nelson after the murder, where he said he was "in bed all night" and didn't know what happened to the victim.

The murder was a culmination of abuse by Nelson who was enraged that the victim had broken off the relationship and stopped taking his calls. At his bond hearing, Nelson stated "if she'd have just answered the phone; if I could've just heard from her, I wanted to talk to her but she wanted to go out with her friends". Witnesses testified about a prior incident where Nelson was observed chasing the victim with a

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State vs Edward Isaiah Nelson cont...

knife outside the same apartment just three months prior to the murder. An acquaintance of the Defendant also testified about a phone call he received from Nelson stating that he wanted to kill the victim and himself. Prosecutors thanked the Moncks Corner Police Department for their swift and thorough investigation, and community members for coming forward to testify. Chief Rick Ollic spoke during the Defendant's sentencing and stated that it was the most brutal murder he had seen during his lengthy career.

The twenty-four year old defendant was on parole for multiple strong-arm robberies at the time of this incident.

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