

CRIMINAL DIVISION
MARK C. SLEEPER, CHIEF
CHRISTOPHER E. BALLARD
J. HAWKEN FLANAGAN
JAQUELINE J. RAPIER
PAYTON ELIZABETH THOMPSON
R. JOSEPH VARVEL
JOEL C. WALKER

JUVENILE DIVISION
ELIZABETH A. MATUNE, SUPERVISOR
ELIZABETH S. FLIGNER
MEGAN A. HAMMOND

Melissa A. Schiffel

Delaware County Prosecutor



CIVIL DIVISION
CHRISTOPHER D. BETTS, CHIEF
MARK W. FOWLER
TYLER D. LANE
ERIC C. PENKAL
VINCE J. VILLO

VICTIM SERVICES DIRECTOR
TRISH S. WRIGHT

INVESTIGATOR
ROBERT J. PETERSON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 29, 2021

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
JULIE DATKO (740) 833-2755

JURY FINDS JUSTIN EASTMAN GUILTY OF AGGRAVATED MURDER



J. Eastman

A jury has found 36-year-old Justin Eastman guilty of taking the life of 53-year-old Donna Harris.

Harris' body was found November 24, 2019 in a remote, rural area off Sherman Road. The official cause of death – blunt force trauma to the head.

"Donna Harris was left face down, her body lying on top of a sheet and bed skirt, bludgeoned to death, and alone in a field," said Delaware County Prosecutor Melissa Schiffel. "No person should have to suffer that fate, and no family should ever have to experience the devastating loss of a loved one in such a traumatic way."

Harris was reported missing on November 21, 2019 when she could not be reached by phone and had failed to arrive to accompany her granddaughter on a school field trip. Her body was found four days later.

During the seven-day trial, jurors learned that Justin Eastman was the last known person to see Donna alive. The two were in a relationship, and video and cell phone records put them together just prior to her death, and in the area where Donna's body was found.

Eastman, of Columbus, was picked up by law enforcement in Kansas on November 25, 2019. He'd been using Donna's credit cards during his attempt to flee the state, purchasing things along the way like tools, clothing, and a gaming system. Donna's cell phone also revealed activity after her death, showing a monetary transaction from her personal account to an acquaintance of Eastman.

In total, jurors heard from 24 witnesses and were presented with more than 200 legal exhibits, including a selfie taken after Donna's death which showed Justin Eastman holding a wad of cash he'd stolen from Donna.

A sentencing hearing for Justin Eastman is set for Friday, May 7 at 2 p.m.

Court update, March 29-April 9:

-A jury found Erik Rodenberg guilty of gross sexual imposition. A sentencing hearing is set for 5/14/21.

-Devontay Champelle was sentenced to 8-12 years in prison for burglary.

-Raymond Fincher was sentenced to 1 year in prison for violating a protection order and failure to comply with an order or signal of a police officer.

-David Kirk was sentenced to 3 years community control sanctions for attempted felonious assault.

-Christy Becker was sentenced to 3 years community control sanctions for theft.

-Eduardo Flores was sentenced to 3 years community control sanctions for attempted domestic violence.

-Earnest Meade Jr. Pled guilty to involuntary manslaughter. Sentencing is set for 5/10/21.

-Caleb Locklear pled guilty to felonious assault. Sentencing is set for 5/3/21.

Our Victim Services Unit handled 139 phone calls and/or emails referring to civil protection orders, violations, referrals, or safety planning.

Court Update, April 12-April 16, 2021:

-Joshua Counts was sentenced to 3 years community control sanctions for fleeing and eluding.

-Johanne Robles was sentenced to 2 years community control sanctions for theft.

-Jordan Whitmire was sentenced to 1 year community control sanctions with 60 days in jail for violating a protection order.

-David Ewing pled guilty to domestic violence. Sentencing is set for 5/17/21.

-Alyssia Albert pled guilty to obstructing official business. Sentencing is set for 5/24/21.

Our Victim Services Unit handled 103 phone calls and/or emails referring to civil protection orders, violations, referrals, or safety planning.

Court Update, April 19-30, 2021:

-A jury found Justin Eastman guilty of aggravated murder. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

-William Popich was sentenced to 4-6 years in prison for felonious assault, domestic violence, and aggravated menacing.

-Abdelkadous Moussaid was sentenced to 3 years in prison for robbery.

-David Foreman was sentenced to 16 months in prison for theft.

-Dustin Lindsay was sentenced to 9 months in prison for violating a protection order.

-Chester Wolfe Jr. was sentenced to 1 year probation with 30 days in jail for sexual imposition.

-Eric Imbrogno was sentenced to 5 years community control sanctions with 60 days house arrest for aggravated assault, aggravated menacing, and child endangering.

-Adolfo Mendez-Cornodo was sentenced to 2 years community control sanctions for receiving stolen property.

-Andrew Swain pled guilty to rape and gross sexual imposition. Sentencing is set for 6/18/21.

-Micah Davenport pled guilty to aggravated burglary and felonious assault. Sentencing is set for 5/27/21.

-Jacob Roof pled guilty to burglary and theft. Sentencing is set for 6/7/21.

Our Victim Services Unit handled 161 phone calls and/or emails referring to civil protection orders, violations, referrals, or safety planning.

All cases statuses can be found on the Clerk of Courts website:

<https://clerkofcourts.co.delaware.oh.us>