

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

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



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
July 13, 2020

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WESTERVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY



Richard Barthel was sentenced to a minimum of 12 years in prison after pleading guilty to 10 counts of pandering obscenity involving a minor, all second-degree felonies.

Local authorities were alerted to suspicious activity on Barthel's Dropbox and Google Photo accounts by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

"The despicable crime of child pornography is far-reaching," said Delaware County Prosecutor Melissa Schiffel. "Unfortunately, today's technology makes it easy to download, share, and spread images of child victims all over the globe with the simple click of a button. Thanks to the diligent work of national partners committed to stopping this vile crime, our local law enforcement was able to pinpoint Barthel's exact IP address and stop this perpetrator from doing further harm."

At sentencing today, prosecutors emphasized that Barthel belongs in prison. Prosecutors outlined the serious charges against him and explained that in addition to the downloaded computer images, Barthel also had an image on his cellular phone, which he took himself.

"Let this case be a reminder for our parents and a warning to predators," Schiffel said. "Parents, stay vigilant. Predators, we are coming for you. In Delaware County, our pursuit of justice will always include a prison sentence," Schiffel said.

Barthel was sentenced to an indefinite term of 12 to 16 years in prison, with 12 years being the minimum he must serve before he is eligible to seek parole. As a result of his conviction, Barthel is classified as a Tier II sex offender. As such, he must register his address every 180 days for 25 years after his release from prison. The court further ordered he serve five years post release control.

Special thanks to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Franklin County Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force for their work to bring this predator to justice.

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For Immediate Release
July 28, 2020

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BRANDON IVY GUILTY OF AGGRAVATED MURDER, SENTENCING SET FOR AUGUST 10



B. Ivy

A jury has found Brandon Ivy guilty of strangling 53-year-old Stephanie Hunter to death on November 22, 2019.

"Stephanie's life was maliciously stolen from her," said Delaware County Prosecutor Melissa A. Schiffel. "Stephanie was a mother. She was a grandmother, a daughter. Stephanie had a life, and when she decided she no longer wanted to share that life with Brandon Ivy, he took it from her. If he couldn't have her, no one could."

The murder trial, during which Brandon Ivy chose to represent himself at the conclusion of day one, lasted five days. During that time, jurors heard from more than 20 witnesses including Stephanie's family, forensic experts, law enforcement, medical professionals, and those who knew the couple socially. Jurors also visited the crime scene - Stephanie Hunter's apartment in Powell, Ohio.

"Stephanie had a big heart," said Prosecutor Schiffel. "She was trying to end an abusive relationship, fighting to live her life surrounded by family and friends. Her death is a tragedy, and I am proud to stand up for her and all victims of domestic violence. My office will do all we can to be a voice for Stephanie during sentencing and demand her killer be held accountable and never get the chance to hurt anyone again."

A sentencing hearing for 28-year-old Ivy is set for August 10, 2020 at 11 a.m. At that time, he will be sentenced for:

- Count 1: Aggravated Murder
- Count 2: Murder
- Count 3: Murder
- Count 4: F2 Felonious Assault
- Count 5: F4 Menacing by Stalking

Counts 1, 2, 3, and 4 carry repeat violent offender specifications, which could add time on to a sentence, however, Ivy faces life in prison even without the specifications.