

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 17, 2010

GAFFNEY MAN RECEIVES 25-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR SHOOTING DEATH

A Gaffney man received a 25-year prison sentence today after a Cherokee County jury decided he shot a teenager to death.

Thomas M. Smith, 24, was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and possession of marijuana with intent distribute within a half-mile of school at the conclusion of a two-day jury trial. He will serve 80 percent of Circuit Judge Derham Cole's prison sentence before he can be released.

Smith shot 19-year-old O'Brien Markee Guest to death on March 13, 2009 in the city of Gaffney. The shooting occurred inside of a parked car on Chestnut Street during an illegal drug deal. Smith fired a 9mm handgun five times.

Smith ran home after the shooting. Police found him hiding under a bed.

"I hope today's sentence sends a message about the dangerous repercussions of the illegal drug trade," Assistant Solicitor Michael Morin said.

For more information, contact Murray Glenn at 809-4892.

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