

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 29, 2023

SPARTANBURG MAN SENTENCED TO 35 YEARS FOR THE MURDER OF HIS MOTHER

A Spartanburg man has been sentenced to thirty-five (35) years in prison for Murder as well as a concurrent thirty (30) year prison sentence for Attempted Murder and a concurrent five (5) year prison sentence for Possession of a Weapon During Commission of a Violent Crime.

Marcel Larville Alston, 30, pleaded guilty on Monday in Spartanburg to Murder, Attempted Murder, and Possession of a Weapon During Commission of a Violent Crime from an April 2022 event and was sentenced to a total of thirty-five (35) years. He must serve every day of the thirty-five (35) year sentence. Circuit Court Judge J. Derham Cole issued the sentences.

In the early morning hours of April 21, 2022, officers with the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office responded to the home of Audra Rochelle Brown at Southern Pines Apartments. Numerous 911 calls had been received, including one from Ms. Brown herself. When deputies arrived at Ms. Brown's apartment they found her in the bathroom with multiple stab wounds. Two of the wounds were made to Ms. Brown's neck. Ms. Brown was transported to the Spartanburg Regional Medical Center where she later succumbed to her injuries. In law enforcement's investigation it was determined Ms. Brown's son, Marcel Larville Alston, was staying in his mother's one-bedroom apartment with her and her boyfriend. Mr. Alston was sleeping in the living room while Ms. Brown and her boyfriend, Jermaine Austin, slept in the bedroom. On the morning of the crimes, Ms. Brown had locked the bedroom door to prevent her son's entry. Ms. Brown and Mr. Austin were asleep when Mr. Alston broke in the bedroom door. Mr. Alston attacked both of them with a knife; he stabbed his mother multiple times. Mr. Alston also stabbed Mr. Austin several times. Mr. Austin was able to run out of the front door of the apartment and went to several neighbors for help before falling down at the door of a nearby apartment. When deputies arrived at the scene, Mr. Austin identified Mr. Alston as the person who stabbed him and Ms. Brown. Deputies thereafter located Mr. Alston in a field adjacent to a nearby Valero store. When he was located, Mr. Alston had bloody a knife in the pocket of his pants. The DNA of both Ms. Brown and Mr. Austin was found on the knife.

Alston's prior criminal history included convictions for Domestic Violence in the Second Degree, Assault and Battery in the Second Degree, Possession of Marijuana, Failure to Stop Vehicle when Signaled by Law Enforcement Vehicle, Breaking Into Motor Vehicle, and Possession of Marijuana.

Solicitor Barry Barnette prosecuted Alston and noted "he is exactly where he should be after his actions caused the death of his own mother and the serious injuries to Mr. Austin."

From the Office of Seventh Circuit Solicitor Barry J. Barnette; for more information, contact Amy Goulding at 864-596-2575 or agoulding@spartanburgcounty.org.

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