

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2023

SPARTANBURG MAN SENTENCED TO 23 YEARS IN PRISON FOR VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER

A Spartanburg man has been sentenced to twenty-three (23) years in prison for Voluntary Manslaughter and a concurrent five (5) years in prison for Possession of a Weapon During Commission of a Violent Crime.

Matthew Ryan Shope, 23, pleaded guilty on Thursday in Spartanburg to Voluntary Manslaughter and Possession of a Weapon During Commission of a Violent Crime. Assistant Solicitor Spenser Smith prosecuted Shope. Circuit Court Judge Grace Gilchrist Knie issued the sentences.

On March 28, 2021, Matthew Ryan Shope and Joey Lott were hanging out in an abandoned house on Williams Street. Mr. Lott's stepmother saw Mr. Lott and Mr. Shope go into the abandoned house; she later heard a commotion come from within the house. She entered the house to find Mr. Shope stabbing Mr. Lott. As Mr. Lott's stepmother pushed Mr. Shope off the victim and began to call 911, Mr. Shope attempted to take the phone from her. Mr. Shope then fled the scene. Mr. Lott was transported to Spartanburg Regional Medical Center where he succumbed to his injuries. Mr. Shope later presented to Spartanburg Regional Medical Center with a cut to his hand. He was searched at the hospital and a bloody dagger was found hidden on his person.

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

###