

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2023

SPARTANBURG MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE FOR SHOOTING WOMAN EIGHT TIMES

From the Office of Seventh Circuit Solicitor Barry J. Barnette

A Spartanburg man has been sentenced to serve the remainder of his life in prison without parole for Attempted Murder in the December 2021 shooting of a woman.

Samuel T. Riser, 37, was tried and found guilty of Attempted Murder and Possession of Weapon During Commission of a Violent Crime. The trial began on Monday in Spartanburg. Circuit Court Judge R. Scott Sprouse, presided over the trial, received the jury's guilty verdict, and then issued the sentence on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

The crimes occurred on December 21, 2021, at an apartment complex on Blackstock Road in Spartanburg County. Mr. Riser had a verbal argument with a woman he had dated for approximately five (5) months. During the argument at the victim's home Mr. Riser broke two (2) televisions. The victim's elementary school-aged children and her neighbors witnessed Mr. Riser break the televisions. Mr. Riser then left the victim's home and drove further into the apartment complex. Within five (5) minutes of leaving, Mr. Riser returned to the victim's home and began shooting at the victim. Mr. Riser fired eight (8) shots at the victim causing a total of nine (9) gunshot wounds. The victim's oldest child witnessed part of the shooting. Mr. Riser fled the scene. The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office found Mr. Riser's car hidden behind his great-grandmother's home in Woodruff. Mr. Riser then turned himself in to law enforcement the day after the shooting.

Riser's prior criminal history included convictions for Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature, three counts of Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance, Trafficking Cocaine, Unlawful Carrying of a Handgun, and Domestic Violence.

Assistant Solicitors Spenser Smith and Candace Clark prosecuted Riser. Assistant Solicitor Smith noted thankfully that the victim has fully physically recovered from the incident. Both the victim and her child were able to identify Mr. Riser as the shooter. "It is a miracle the victim was not killed during this brutal assault. The bravery shown by the victim and her children is remarkable. They were instrumental in solving this case."

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