



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROTHE SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Jay E. Rothe, Sr., 66, of Springfield, Missouri, was sentenced to life in prison for murder in the second degree today for causing the death of Ms. Linda Riley. Friends of Ms. Riley reported her missing on February 27, 2012. A week later, after several interviews with the Springfield Police Department, the defendant took the officers to the fire pit near Stockton Lake where he burned her body. On April 22, 2013, while potential jurors waited in the courthouse, the defendant entered a guilty plea to murder in the second degree. The range of punishment for murder in the second degree is from ten to thirty years or life in the Missouri Department of Corrections.

Today, July 15, 2013, Judge Mountjoy heard the evidence and argument presented by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Todd Myers and Emily Monroe, as well as the evidence and argument presented by the attorneys for the defendant, statements made by the defendant in open court, and victim impact statements on behalf of Ms. Riley's family. Evidence presented by the prosecutors included the recording of a 911 call made by Ms. Riley to report an assault by the defendant in November of 2011, a few months before her death. Prosecutors asked the judge for a sentence of life in the Department of Corrections for the defendant, citing the defendant's dangerousness to women and children. The defense asked for the minimum of ten years in the Department of Corrections, arguing the defendant's age and poor health in mitigation.

Having heard all of the evidence and considered the sentencing assessment report, Judge Mountjoy found that the only appropriate sentence for the defendant was life in the Department of Corrections. The defendant will not be eligible for parole until he serves forty percent of his sentence and has reached the age of seventy years old. Life in prison is calculated in Missouri as a sentence for thirty years, so the defendant will be eligible for parole at age 78 but may serve a sentence through his mid-nineties.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Rothe, 1231-CR01314

Shortly prior to the sentencing hearing, the defense filed a motion to withdraw the defendant's guilty plea, indicating that he felt pressured to plead guilty. Judge Mountjoy denied that motion.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Todd Myers and Emily Monroe. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Neal McAmis was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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