

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

May 14, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Elwell McPhail Convicted of Murder in the Second Degree

Rochester, NY- Friday, May 11, 2018, a Monroe County Jury convicted 50-year-old Elwell McPhail of Murder in the 2nd degree for the death of Syreeta Knight.

On early morning of December 8, 2017, the defendant killed his girlfriend at his apartment on Bernard Street in the City of Rochester. The defendant beat her to death with a crowbar while she was sleeping. The Rochester Police Department was alerted to the crime after a concerned citizen from outside New York State phoned the 311 call center. A swift investigation followed, leading to the discovery of Ms. Knight's body, and ultimately the arrest of the defendant for her murder.

The case was prosecuted by Monroe County First Assistant District Attorney Perry Duckles.

"This case was an absolute tragedy, bringing to light the worst case scenario of domestic violence," said Assistant District Attorney Perry Duckles. "Last December, Elwell McPhail violently and deliberately took the life of a woman he claimed to love. I want to especially thank the Rochester Police Department for their efficient investigation which led to the quick arrest of the defendant. I also want to thank the Willow Domestic Violence Center for standing by the deceased's family throughout this horrifying ordeal. The Monroe County District Attorney's Office urges anyone in a domestic violence situation to please reach out to law enforcement or the Willow Domestic Violence Center."

Elwell McPhail will be sentenced July 2, 2018, before County Court Judge Douglas A. Randall.

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