

**News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney**

June 24, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Aries Ash Convicted of Murder in the Second Degree

Rochester, NY- Thursday, June 24, 2021, a Monroe County Jury convicted 32-year-old Aries Ash of Murder in the 2nd Degree, Manslaughter in the 1st Degree, two counts of Robbery in the 1st Degree, Kidnapping in the 2nd Degree, three counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of Marihuana in the 2nd Degree for the events surrounding the murder of Maximillion Cook.

On March 23, 2019, after a disagreement, Aries Ash shot and killed Maximillion Cook. Following the murder, Ash dismembered the victim's body, separating his limbs and his head into garbage bags. He then burnt the rest of the body and evidence. Part of Maximillion Cook's body was found in an abandoned home in Syracuse, NY.

Also on March 23, 2019, Aries Ash forcibly stole property from and kidnapped a second victim following the murder of Maximillion Cook. The second victim later escaped.

Once Maximillion Cook was reported missing, a New York State Police Officer located Mr. Cook's remains. With assistance from the second victim, the Rochester Police Department identified Aries Ash and his co-defendant. On March 26, 2019, the Rochester Police Department attempted to pull over Ash's vehicle, which led to a police chase that concluded on Clifford Avenue. Aries Ash was arrested for the murder.

The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant District Attorney Julie Hahn, Chief of the Major Felony Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Camille Ingino, of the Non Violent Felony Bureau.

"After two years since Maximillion's murder, I am relieved that his family can finally find justice in this violent and tragic death," said Special Assistant District Attorney Julie Hahn. "Aries Ash went to great lengths to cover his tracks after killing Maximillion. He had no regard for Mr. Cook's life or his remains. This conviction is also a comfort to the kidnapping victim, whose bravery helped secure today's important verdict."

"The murder of Maximillion Cook by Aries Ash and the actions that followed were completely horrendous," said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. "His violent crimes spanned across various counties during a three day period. Aries Ash did not care about the law, the community or the value

of human life. We are pleased that the defendant was found guilty of his crimes and hope that Mr. Cook's family can finally seek closure in this heartbreaking tragedy.”

Aries Ash will be sentenced on July 28, 2021, in front of Monroe County Court Judge Dollinger.

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