

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

July 2, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Elwell McPhail Sentenced to 25 years to life for Murder in the Second Degree

Rochester, NY- Monday, July 2nd, County Court Judge Douglas Randall sentenced 50-year-old Elwell McPhail to 25 years to life in the New York State Department of Corrections on his conviction for Murder in the 2nd degree for the intentional killing of Syreeta Knight.

On the 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 Ms. Knight 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 First Assistant District Attorney Perry Duckles.

"Mr. McPhail epitomizes the very worst kind of domestic abuser," said Assistant District Attorney Perry Duckles. "To the very end, McPhail tried to exert power and control over someone that he claimed to love. Today's sentence, not only demonstrated the significance of Ms. Knight's life but also the appropriateness of giving Elwell McPhail the maximum sentence for taking her life." 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.

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