

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

May 31, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Don'Kish Lesane Sentenced to 25 Years to Life
for Murder in the Second Degree**

Rochester, NY- Today, Supreme Court Justice Alex R. Renzi sentenced 22 year old Don'Kish Lesane to 25 years to life for Murder in the Second Degree and an additional 10 years for Arson in the Second Degree. The judge ordered the sentences to run consecutively with additional 5 years post release supervision.

On July 8, 2014 at 7:30pm, Winnie Butler was babysitting her four grandchildren, 5 year old twin boys, a 4 year old girl and a 1 year old boy at her daughter's home on Fernwood Avenue. On that day, Don'Kish Lesane arrived at his aunt's home, had an argument with his grandmother and beat and strangled her in front of her 4 grandchildren Lesane then set the first floor apartment on fire and left holding his four young cousins. It took firefighters 30 minutes to control the blaze.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Brian Green, Deputy Chief of the Major Felony Bureau, and Sara Vanstrydonck, Chief of the Child Abuse Bureau. The Rochester Fire Department, the Arson Task Force, and the Rochester Police Department all contributed significantly to the investigation.

"It is clear Don'Kish Lesane is a dangerous individual. Fortunately he at least had the sense to save his four cousins from the fire he intentionally set to cover up the brutal murder of his own grandmother," said Assistant District Attorney Brian Green. "It is our hope that he will remain incarcerated for the duration of his life and that today's sentencing can bring some closure to his family."

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