

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF GREENVILLE)

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

WARRANT # 2014A2330206802
INDICTMENT # 2015GS2300945

VS.)

RAMONA DELORES GILMORE,)
DEFENDANT.)

ORDER
RECEIVED

SS#: 150748391 DOB: 7/16/1982)

Race: B Sex: F)

SEP 27 2016

SC Court of Appeals

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2016 SEP 12 PM 2:20

This matter came before the court at the time of defendant's guilty plea, August 9, 2016. Defendant was present and represented by Powers Price and Jake Erwin. The State was present and represented by Kris Hodge. Defendant pled guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter, reduced from Murder. The State recommended a sentence of 18 years, the defendant argued for less, and specifically requested a sentence of 6 years. In addition the defense requested the court consider finding defendant was entitled to parole eligibility after 1/4 of sentence was served, pursuant to South Carolina Code Section 16-25-90. The court sentenced the defendant to 18 years.

Facts were presented by the State as follows:

July 19, 2014, defendant stabbed the victim one time in the chest, during a verbal altercation. Victim and defendant were husband and wife, and lived together in an apartment in Greenville County. The victim died as a result of the single stab wound.

During the course of investigation, officers received statements from many witnesses in the victim's apartment complex, and at the victim's place of employment, that the defendant was the primary aggressor in the arguments between the she and the victim. Witnesses also stated defendant was a jealous person who suspected the victim of having an affair. Witnesses stated victim would delay going home from work so that he could avoid arguments with defendant. Witnesses also stated that on a prior occasion, defendant came to victim's place of employment, was angry at him for not taking her on a work trip with him, and attempted to run him over with her car. In addition, a friend of the victim's and the mother of the victim gave statements that the defendant had previously stabbed the victim in the shoulder, when defendant and victim lived in New Jersey, prior to moving to Greenville, SC.

The crime scene was processed and it appeared the victim was at home for several hours before the defendant on the incident date. Victim had ordered pizza and was playing video games in the bedroom. The door frame to the bedroom had been broken or kicked inward, and there was a spot of blood near the video game controller, and then larger amounts of blood at the doorway out of the apartment. Victim fled the apartment, knocked on a neighbor's door to ask for help, and stated to the neighbor, " she stabbed me, and she got me good this time". Victim then fell down in the stairwell and died there.

Greenville County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene and found defendant in the stairwell with the victim next to him crying. She stated they were arguing and she stabbed him to get him off of her, yet she had no visible injuries, and did not complain of any injuries when EMS arrived and checked her.

Defense presented evidence from a psychologist that the defendant suffered from Battered Woman's Syndrome. In addition defense stated defendant was in fear of the victim, and that he had been abusive to her, and isolated her from friends and family.

The court noted the only evidence the defense presented regarding a history of criminal domestic violence perpetrated by the victim on the defendant, was the defendant's self-reporting of this abusive relationship; and it was directly contrary to the facts presented by the State's investigation.

After hearing the facts of the case by the State, and mitigating facts presented by the defense, the court declines to find defendant is entitled to the benefit of early parole under 16-25-90, due to the lack of credible evidence of a history of criminal domestic violence.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that defendant does not qualify for early parole eligibility cited in SC Code Section 16-25-90.

IT IS SO ORDERED

Date: _____

Greenville, South Carolina

9/12/16



Presiding Judge

