



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Anne Colt Leitess, State's Attorney



Anne Arundel Justice

A Monthly News Digest from the Office of the State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County

A Message from Anne Arundel County State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess

Greetings!

Welcome to this month's edition of Anne Arundel Justice.

More than 30 years ago, October was established as Domestic Violence Awareness Month to honor advocates, supporters and survivors of intimate partner violence. The month sheds light on a crisis that impacts 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men who have experienced some form of physical violence by a partner. Since 2020, 56 Marylanders have lost their lives to domestic violence: 38 to intimate partners, 3 were bystanders, 11 lost their lives to abusive partners and 4 individuals whose death involved domestic violence dynamics but have not yet been classified, according to Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence 2020 Homicide Prevention Report. These grim statistics were noted to be the highest recorded number of fatalities since 2007.

The Office of the State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County stands in solidarity with survivors and victims of domestic violence. Our group of dedicated advocates and allies are available throughout the process to support and educate survivors as they navigate the judicial system. We accompany them to court and provide the necessary resources and services during this challenging experience. Our diverse group of professionals is available to answer any questions in our District and Circuit Court offices. We have English and Spanish-speaking advocates and the county has a 24-hour domestic hotline to call at 410-222-6800 for assistance. For those who speak another language, there is a Language Line that connects individuals with certified interpreters for any court proceedings. Throughout the process, we are here to guide and reassure each survivor of our commitment to their healing and pursuit for justice on their behalf.

In this month's newsletter, you'll learn about the successful prosecution of a defendant who received life suspend all but 60 years for the first degree murder of an Elkridge man; a family acquaintance sentenced to 36 years for sexually abusing a minor, a defendant who pled guilty to second degree murder in a marijuana deal robbery and more.

Be sure to [subscribe](#) to our newsletter and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for the latest news and information.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Teenager Pleads Guilty to First Degree Murder of Half-Sister, Faces Trial on Criminal Responsibility Issue

On October 6, Stephen J. Davis II, 19, of Pasadena, pled guilty to first degree murder in the death of his 5-year-old half-sister, Anayah Jannah Abdul. Davis was 17 years old at the time of the murder and a rising senior at Chesapeake High School in Pasadena, Maryland. After the murder, he fled his home, taking the family car and was later apprehended in Ohio.

“Stephen Davis admitted his guilt in the murder of Anayah, and elected a trial on the issue of his criminal responsibility for his actions. The NCR trial will take place on April 10, 2023 and the defendant will have the burden of proof in persuading a judge or a jury that at the time of the murder, due to a mental disorder, he lacked substantial capacity to appreciate the criminality of the conduct or conform his conduct to the requirements of the law,” said State’s Attorney Anne Colt Leitess.

Assistant State’s Attorney Anastasia Prigge and David Russell prosecuted this case on behalf of the citizens of Anne Arundel County.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Judge Sentences Defendant to Life Suspend All But 60 Years for First Degree Murder in Unprovoked Fatal Attack

Inari Molina, 27, pled guilty and was sentenced to life suspend all but 60 years for one count of first degree murder in the death of Brian Gifford, announced Anne Arundel County State’s Attorney Anne Colt Leitess. Mr. Gifford had been sleeping in his car in a parking lot in a Glen Burnie shopping center when the defendant entered the car in the early morning hours.

“The victim, Mr. Gifford, was sitting in his truck when the defendant opened his truck door apparently to look for valuables inside. When she encountered Mr. Gifford, instead of abandoning her plan to commit a theft, she chose to viciously attack him and stabbed him 36 times. This was an unprovoked attack as the individuals were neither acquaintances or knew each other,” said State’s Attorney Anne Colt Leitess. “Mr. Gifford’s life was senselessly taken from him leaving a huge hole in the lives of those who loved him dearly. We hope the sentence imposed today will provide some level of comfort to his family.”

Click [here](#) to read more.

Elkridge Man Pleads Guilty to Second Degree Murder in Marijuana Deal Robbery

Alkein Coates, 24, of Elkridge entered an Alford Plea to one count of second degree murder and one count of use of a firearm in the commission of a felony in the death of Richard Ramsay, III.

The defendant will be sentenced on November 21, 2022.

“The defendant and an associate conspired to rob Richard Ramsay, III, under the guise of engaging in a marijuana deal. Instead, Mr. Coates’ associate produced a firearm and shot Mr. Ramsay once in the head,” said State’s Attorney Anne Colt Leitess. “This is a senseless act, and at sentencing we plan to seek a 25-year prison sentence. I hope this guilty plea and the sentence provides Mr. Ramsay’s family with some level of closure and peace during this challenging time. The State will continue to hold every person contributing to gun violence accountable whether they pulled the trigger or helped the trigger-puller.”

Glen Neubauer and Josh Adrian prosecuted this case on behalf of the citizens of Anne Arundel County.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Family Acquaintance Receives 36 Years for Sexually Abusing a Minor

Hector Rojo, 27, of Alexandria, Virginia was sentenced to 36 years of active incarceration for one count of sex abuse of a minor, two counts of second degree rape and other lesser charges.

A jury found the defendant guilty of the charges on June 17, 2022.

“As adults, we have to be very cautious of individuals we bring into our homes and allow around children. We must also tell kids that they are in charge of their bodies so that they know when predatory adults are attempting to exploit them. Encouraging children to tell a trusted adult when something doesn’t seem right is the best way to protect our children from this kind of abuse,” said State’s Attorney Anne Colt Leitess. “Reporting abuse is never easy and is even more confusing to a child when the perpetrator is someone they know. It’s because of the bravery of this child, first in telling her parents, and then later by testifying in court, that this defendant will be serving a lengthy prison sentence. If you know someone who is a victim of sexual abuse, please encourage them to tell someone or [call](#) the Sexual Assault Crisis Center and Hotline at 410-222-6800”

Prosecutors Maria Stamidis and Anastassia Prigge prosecuted this case on behalf of the citizens of Anne Arundel County.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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