

State of South Carolina  
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

Telephone: 864-467-8647  
Telefax: 864-467-8610



Greenville County Courthouse  
305 E. North Street, Suite 325  
Greenville, SC 29601-2185

Solicitor  
W. Walter Wilkins

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

**September 17, 2012**

**Greenville Man Sentenced on Attempted Murder**

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that MICHAEL STEPHENS, age 44, pled guilty on September 12, 2012 to Attempted Murder and Possession of a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison by the Honorable Steven John. MICHAEL STEPHENS will have to serve at least 85 % of the sentence before he becomes eligible for parole.

Evidence presented at the plea hearing by Assistant Solicitor Judy Munson established that on January 22, 2011, MICHAEL STEPHENS got into a heated argument with his live in girlfriend, Aljena Luster in the parking area of their North Franklin Road apartment complex. Witnesses saw Stephens shoot Luster once, knocking her to the ground. While she was on the ground, he fired 4 -5 more times. Luster suffered a fractured skull, hip and pelvis. When the Greenville County Sheriff's Office arrived at the scene they quickly took Stephens into custody. He told the deputies that he had shot Luster and that he had just snapped. The .380 caliber pistol he used to shoot Luster was recovered from the couple's apartment.