State of South Carolina Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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PRESS RELEASE For Immediate Release

March 17, 2016

Greenville Man Sentenced to Life After Murder Conviction

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that JOHN CALVIN SLEDGE, age 48, was convicted on March 16, 2016 by a Greenville County jury of Murder, Possession of a Weapon During a Violent Crime and Unlawful Conduct Toward a Child. The Honorabe Garry Hill sentenced Sledge to life for murder, five years on the weapon charge and ten years for unlawful conduct toward a child. The sentences are concurrent. The life sentence makes Sledge ineligible for parole.

Evidence presented at trial by Assistant Solicitors Judy Munson and Brittany Scott established that on January 29, 2014, Sledge killed his wife, Kimberly Sledge, by shooting her in the back of the head with a .357 handgun after an argument. Sledge then left the home on Berry Road in Pelzer leaving Kimberly Sledge's 10 year old son in the home. The boy testified at trial that he heard his mom arguing with his step-father and came out of his bedroom to find the defendant on top of his mother. He pushed Sledge off of his mother and returned to his bedroom. He then heard a loud boom that "shook the house". He came out of his bedroom to find Sledge gone and his mother dead on the floor of a guest bathroom. Sledge was captured by the Greenville County Sheriff's Office in the area shortly after the murder, when he drove to a local convienience store to buy beer.