

State of South Carolina  
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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Solicitor  
W. Walter Wilkins

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

**April 5, 2018**

**Greenville Brother and Sister Convicted in Murder Conspiracy**

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that JANE KATHERINE HUGHES, age 36, and her brother, JACOB CODY HUGHES, age 32, were convicted by a Greenville County jury on April 4, 2018, of charges related to the murder of John Ferrell. Jane Hughes was convicted of murder and conspiracy to commit murder and was sentenced to 30 years with no opportunity for parole. Jacob Hughes was convicted of conspiracy to commit murder and was found not guilty of murder. He was sentenced to 4 years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections. The Honorable Perry H. Gravely presided over the trial.

Evidence presented at the trial by Assistant Solicitor Mark Moyer established that on January 24, 2015, Jane Hughes' estranged husband, John Ferrell, was shot and killed by Jane and Jacob Hughes' father, John Hughes, at their residence of 106 Stonegate Rd. in Simpsonville. During the course of the investigation, the Simpsonville Police Department uncovered evidence that Jane Hughes and the victim were married at the time but separated and going through a custody battle over their two young children. A hearing was scheduled for January 27, 2015, at which the Family Court was going to address the issue of how much and under what circumstances the victim would have visitation with the children. John and Jane Hughes were heard in the days leading up to the hearing that they would do whatever it took for John Ferrell not to have the children. On the night of January 24, 2015, Jacob Hughes and the victim got together at a bar and then went to a Waffle House. About 11:30 that night, the two came over to the residence together. DNA and other evidence established that while the victim was in the home, Jane

Hughes struck him multiple times in the head and face with a hammer. The victim was able to escape out of a kitchen window. John Hughes followed him outside and shot him 5 times in the upper body with a .45 caliber pistol. John Hughes is currently serving a 40 year sentence for his conviction in December 2017 for murder and conspiracy.