

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

April 17, 2015

Greenville Man Sentenced for Domestic Violence Shooting

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that CARLOS TOJ-DE LA CRUZ, age 30, pled guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter on April 16, 2015 for the August 2013 shooting death of his 25 year old girlfriend, Kristin Collins. The Honorable Ned Miller handed down the maximum sentence of 30 years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

Assistant Solicitor Barbara Tiffin told the Court that the Greenville County Sheriff's Office was called to the North Franklin Apartment at about 2:00 a.m. They found Ms. Collins sitting in the grass outside of an apartment bleeding from the nose and mouth. She was able to tell deputies that she was shot by the defendant who was standing next to Ms. Collins when deputies arrived. The investigation revealed that Ms. Collins was shot in the chest by the defendant after an argument inside of his apartment. Toj De La Cruz initially denied any knowledge of how Ms. Collins came to be shot. He later confessed to shooting her and told investigators where he had hidden the hand gun he used to kill Ms. Collins.

During the hearing the victim's father, Richard Collins, told the court that he was not seeking revenge, only justice for his daughter and all domestic violence victims.