

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
July 23, 2013

Greenville Man Sentenced on Two Counts of Voluntary Manslaughter

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that MICHAEL JAMES CRANE, age 37, pled guilty on July 22, 2013 to two counts of Voluntary Manslaughter and was sentenced to 30 years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections by the Honorable Letitia Verdin.

Evidence presented at the plea hearing by the State, through Assistant Solicitor Jennifer Tessitore, established that on August 2, 2011, officers conducted a welfare check on JANE LANSER and her 26 year old daughter, ALLISON CROSS, at Ms. Lanser's home on Eastview Drive, in Simpsonville, after Lanser did not appear for work. The defendant and his girlfriend, Cross, had moved in with her mother after losing their jobs. Officers with Simpsonville Police Department who were conducting the welfare check could not get any response when knocking on the door and entered the home through Lanser's bedroom window. The defendant was found in a bedroom with the deceased victims whom he had covered in blankets. He admitted that he and Cross had been using methamphetamine the previous night and that he could not recall what had happened but knew that he must have killed the victims because no one else had been there that evening. Autopsy reports indicate that both victims were killed by blunt force trauma to their heads and the injuries were consistent with the use of the hammer located on the crime scene. There were no other witnesses to the crimes. The State advised the Court that the reason for reducing the charges from murder to voluntary manslaughter and recommending concurrent sentences was due to the fact that one of the officers involved in the investigation of this case was Ralph Bobo, formerly with the Simpsonville Police Department. While

this case was pending, Mr. Bobo was arrested and charged with Obstruction of Justice and Misconduct in Office for allegedly destroying evidence in an unrelated murder investigation.