



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

For Immediate Release:

CONTACT: James Pollack

Phone: (330) 604-2739

pollack@prosecutor.summitoh.net

Facebook: SummitCountyProsecutorOffice

Twitter: @ProsecutorWalsh

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Michael Hendon Sentenced to Life Without Parole in Barberton Murders

AKRON, Ohio (Tuesday, September 08, 2015) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Summit County Common Pleas Court Judge Amy Corrigan-Jones sentenced Michael Hendon, 23, of Fowler Avenue in Akron, to three consecutive sentences of Life Without Parole in connection with the murders of John Kohler, Ashley Carpenter, and David Carpenter-Kohler, and the attempted murder of Ronda Blankenship on December 31, 2013 in Barberton.

Judge Jones also sentenced Hendon to two 11-year prison sentences for the Attempted Murder and the Aggravated Robbery conviction, also to be served consecutive to the Life Sentences.

“Ronda Blankenship showed tremendous courage and strength in not only surviving the attack, calling 9-1-1 as well as facing Michael Hendon in court,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “Michael Hendon left John, Ashley, David, and Ronda to die, then went two blocks away to drink and smoke pot. If not for Michael Hendon, this would not have happened.”

On Friday August 28, 2015, jurors convicted Hendon of the following charges:

- Three counts of Aggravated Murder – felonies of the first degree
- One count of Attempted Murder – a felony of the first degree
- Five counts of Aggravated Robbery – felonies of the first degree
- Two counts of Felonious Assault – felonies of the second degree

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On the evening of December 31, 2013, Hendon, armed with a gun, along with a co-defendant, forced his way into the Barberton home of John Kohler with the intent of stealing money and drugs. In the process of the robbery, the 42-year-old Kohler, his 18-year-old step-daughter Ashley Carpenter, and his 14-year-old son David Carpenter-Kohler, were shot and killed. Kohler's live-in girlfriend, Ronda Blankenship, was shot in the head, but survived. Blankenship lost an eye as a result of the shooting.

Hendon's brother Eric is scheduled to stand trial in the case on October 13, 2015.