



Elliot Kolkovich

Summit County Prosecutor

For Immediate Release

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PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH ANNOUNCES LIFE SENTENCE IN BARBERTON MURDER CASE

AKRON, OH – Today, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced that Brandon Churchill, 23, was sentenced to life in prison for the 2019 murder of Mark Miller, 64, in Barberton. Churchill will be eligible for parole consideration after 15 years.

Churchill pleaded guilty to the following counts:

- One count of Murder – an Unclassified Felony; and
- One count of Aggravated Burglary – a 1st Degree Felony.

“Mark Miller was just trying to care for and protect his grandchild when he was brutally and senselessly murdered. My thoughts are with his loved ones as they continue to grapple with the aftermath of this act of violence,” said Prosecutor Kolkovich. **“I want to thank the Barberton Police Department for their quick work in apprehending Churchill, and my assistant prosecutors for ensuring Churchill will be removed from our communities.”**

In December 2019, Mark Miller’s daughter lived with Churchill’s father. Mr. Miller went to their home to take care of his grandchild. When he arrived, Churchill was hiding in the basement despite not being allowed in the house. Miller called the homeowners to alert them of Churchill’s presence, and they called the police. Between the time of the phone call and the police’s arrival, Churchill brutally stabbed Mr. Miller multiple times before fleeing the scene in his car. Police apprehended Churchill after he crashed the car at a local restaurant. They found him hiding behind a dumpster at another nearby restaurant with a large knife in his possession. Churchill later confessed to stabbing Miller.

Churchill also pleaded guilty today to offenses committed while in custody of the Summit County Jail:

- One count of vandalism, a 5th Degree Felony; and
- One count of Assault, a 4th Degree Felony.

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