



Elliot Kolkovich

Summit County Prosecutor

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PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH ANNOUNCES LIFE PRISON TERM FOR COVENTRY TOWNSHIP MURDER

AKRON, OH – Today, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced that Jeffery Peasley, 44, was sentenced to life in prison for the 2021 murder of Robert Zornes, Jr., 49, inside a friend's home in Coventry Township. Peasley will be eligible for parole consideration after 26 years.

In March, a Summit County Jury found Peasley guilty of the following charges:

- Two counts of Murder, each with a 3-Year Firearm Specification – an Unclassified Felony;
- One count of Felonious Assault with a 3-Year Firearm Specification – a 2nd Degree Felony;
- One count of Having Weapons Under Disability – a 3rd Degree Felony;
- One count of Grand Theft of a Motor Vehicle – a 4th Degree Felony; and
- Two counts of Disrupting Public Services – a 4th Degree Felony.

Judge Kelly L. McLaughlin also found that Peasley is a Repeat Violent Offender because of his previous convictions for Aggravated Robbery and Felonious Assault. She also designated Peasley as a Violent Offender, meaning that if he is ever released from prison, he will have to register in the Violent Offender Database for 10 years.

“Retaliation and violence only deepen conflict and pain. My deepest sympathies go out to Bobby’s family during this difficult time. I also want to thank the Summit County Sheriff’s Office for its diligent investigation and my assistant prosecutors for their dedication in presenting the evidence at trial,” said Prosecutor Kolkovich.

In October 2021, Peasley arrived at a Coventry Township house where Robert Zornes, Jr., known as Bobby to his loved ones, was staying with a friend. While there, Peasley and Zornes got into an argument that escalated into violence. During the confrontation, Peasley used a shotgun to shoot him as he attempted to flee. Peasley then fled the scene on Zornes’ motorcycle. He was arrested two days later by the Niles Police Department after he got into an accident on the stolen motorcycle. Witness testimony, DNA evidence, surveillance videos, and the Defendant’s own admissions connected him to the crime.

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