



ELLIOT KOLKOVICH

SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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CONTACT: [Elaine Vilem](#)

(330) 643-8386

PROSECUTOR KOLKOVICH ANNOUNCES INDICTMENT FOR MURDER OF MOTHER AND 12-YEAR-OLD CHILD

A Summit County Grand Jury Has Indicted Brandon Casto with a Death Penalty Specification

AKRON, OH – Today, Summit County Prosecutor Elliot Kolkovich announced that a Summit County Grand Jury has indicted Brandon Casto, 29, of Akron, for the murder of Tania Mangual, 47, and her 12-year-old son, Jericho Mangual, also of Akron. The Grand Jury chose to indict Casto with a death penalty specification.

Ohio law only allows for the death penalty to be pursued for an aggravated murder that meets an additional aggravating circumstance, including multiple victims and the purposeful death of a child under 13 years of age. In 2017, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office implemented a mitigation process for all cases that meet the requirements laid out by Ohio Law to be indicted with a death penalty specification. This process gives the defense the opportunity to provide background information on the defendant and any arguments as to why a potential death penalty would not be appropriate. A committee of Senior Prosecutors in the Office reviews the mitigating evidence and decides if the death specification should be presented to the Grand Jury. If presented, the Grand Jury then decides whether to include the death penalty specification in the indictment. A death penalty sentence can only be considered if the specification is included in the indictment, but the indictment does not guarantee a death penalty sentence. Indictments, including those with death specifications, only contain allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty at trial. If a trial jury determines that the defendant is guilty of the charged offenses carrying capital specifications, the trial enters the penalty phase during which the jury decides whether the imposition of the death penalty is appropriate. The jury must unanimously agree on the death penalty for it to be imposed.

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