

State of South Carolina



Charleston County
101 Meeting Street, Suite 400
Charleston, SC 29401
Phone (843) 958-1900
Fax (843) 958-1905

Berkeley County
300-B California Avenue
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
Phone (843) 723-3800 ext. 4529
Fax (843) 719-4588

SCARLETT A. WILSON

Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit

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JUDGE IMPOSES TWO LIFE SENTENCES AFTER JURY CONVICTS NORTH CHARLESTON MAN OF MURDERING PREGNANT GIRLFRIEND AND THEIR CHILD

April 20, 2018 - Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that on Friday night, after a week- long trial, a Charleston County jury convicted Ricky Anthony Short of Harper Street in North Charleston of two counts of Murder and for the Possession of a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent Crime. Judge Deadra Jefferson sentenced Short to two life sentences. In South Carolina, a life sentence means the defendant will spend the rest of his life in prison with no option for parole.

Mr. Short was represented by attorney A. Peter Shahid, Jr. of the Charleston County Bar. Burns Wetmore and Richard Waring prosecuted the case.

On October 10, 2015, the North Charleston Police Department responded to the Ferndale Community to assist Malakia Frazier who was over six months pregnant and had been stabbed thirty times. Frazier died from her numerous wounds, but her baby girl was later delivered by emergency cesarean section at the Medical University of South Carolina. Family members named her Miracle Frazier.

Police detained Short at the scene of the crime after learning that he was Frazier's boyfriend and the father of her child. He told Detectives that the couple had been in a heated argument that night, and that she had

stormed off. When he went to check on her, he found that she had been stabbed. Detectives noticed inconsistencies in his statements, scratches on his face and cuts on his hand from handling the knife.

Other officers systematically searched the neighborhood until they found a large steak knife hidden with bloody clothing nearby. Laboratory testing revealed DNA from both Short and Frazier on these items.

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Cont... State vs Ricky Anthony Short

Short told police that he had given the clothing that was found to a homeless man a few weeks prior and explained that the cuts on his hand were from thorny flowers that he picked for Frazier a few days earlier.

Miracle Frazier lived in the neonatal intensive care unit for two weeks, but died from complications involved in her premature birth caused by the assault on her mother. Besides arguing that Short did not murder Frazier, the defense argued that Miracle was not "viable" at the time her mother was stabbed and killed, and therefore was not considered a "person" under South Carolina law. Drs. Julie Ross and John Cahill from MUSC described Miracle's condition and explained the medical aspects of "viability."

Solicitor Wilson stated, "Our team felt strongly that Miracle's sweet life had value both in the womb and after she was born so prematurely. The judge and jury agreed. We send many thanks to Dr. Cahill and the MUSC team for their efforts to save Miracle. Dr. Cahill did excellent work in explaining the medical issues to the jury."

Short maintained his innocence, testifying in his own defense Friday. The jury rejected his explanations, convicting him of Murdering Malakia and Miracle Frazier in addition to the weapon charge.

Assistant Solicitors Wetmore remarked that, "This was one of the saddest cases that I have prosecuted in my long time at the Solicitor's Office, and I hope that this verdict can bring some measure of comfort to the Frazier family."

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