

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney
General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 9, 2011

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AG ANNOUNCES CONVICTION OF DALLAS COUNTY WOMAN FOR CONSPIRACY, SOLICITATION TO MURDER, FORGERIES

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange today announced the conviction of a Dallas County woman for conspiracy and solicitation to murder, and forgeries related to life insurance fraud. Marie Billingsley, 59, was found guilty yesterday by a jury in Dallas County Circuit Court of one count of criminal conspiracy to commit murder, one count of criminal solicitation to commit murder, and three counts of second-degree forgery.

The Attorney General's Office presented evidence in a two-day trial that began on Wednesday about Billingsley's scheme to murder a woman and collect \$800,000 of life insurance. She was convicted for conspiring with her son to commit the murder. A charge for conspiracy is pending against Jerry Billingsley, also of Dallas County, but no trial date is set. Marie Billingsley also solicited a third person to assist in the murder. The person solicited instead informed authorities of the murder plot. Although the third person did not know the victim's name, special agents of the Attorney General's Office worked to locate and identify the victim, thus preventing the murder. Using this limited information the agents further discovered Billingsley's forgeries of multiple insurance policies.

"I am pleased that the jury found this defendant guilty and that she has been brought to justice and will be punished for these terrible crimes," said Attorney General Strange. "I am especially proud of the outstanding work of our special agents, whose diligence and skill uncovered this plot and saved a woman's life."

A sentencing date is not yet set. Upon her conviction Billingsley was immediately taken into custody and incarcerated in the Dallas County Jail. She faces potential penalties of 10 years to life imprisonment for each conviction of conspiracy and solicitation, which are class A felonies; and one year and one day to 10 years imprisonment for each of the three convictions for second-degree forgery, which are class C felonies.

Attorney General Strange commended Assistant Attorneys General Andrew Arrington and John Hensley of his Violent Crimes Division and special agents of his



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Investigations Division. He also thanked the Mobile office of the U.S. Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms Bureau and the 4th Circuit Drug Task Force in Marion.