

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AG ANNOUNCES THAT COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS UPHOLDS MADISON COUNTY MURDER CONVICTION

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced that the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals last Friday upheld the murder conviction of Karla Gaye Chapman, also known as Karla Gaye Elliff. Chapman, 45, of Hazel Green, was convicted in Madison County Circuit Court in March of 2014 for the murder of her husband Jonathan Elliff.

Evidence presented at trial showed the following: On the evening of May 28, 2010, Chapman and her husband Jonathan Elliff got into a series of arguments about money. Elliff said that he was going to leave Chapman, and he left the residence. After Elliff returned to the home early the next morning, Chapman stabbed him with a knife. Elliff was able to call for emergency assistance, and before he died, told police that his wife had stabbed him.

The case was prosecuted at trial by Madison County District Attorney Robert Broussard's office. Chapman was sentenced to 35 years imprisonment and subsequently sought to have her conviction reversed on appeal.

The Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Division handled the case during the appeals process, arguing for the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals to affirm the conviction. The Court did so in a decision issued on Friday July 10.

Attorney General Strange commended Assistant Attorney General Michael Dean of the Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Division for his successful work in this case.

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