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County of Warren

PRESS RELEASE

Defendant: Ralph Atkinson
LKA: 13 Ramseyburg Road
Columbia, NJ 07832
Date of Birth: 10/10/1975

Warren County Prosecutor Richard T. Burke announced the entry of guilty pleas to two indictments by Ralph Atkinson before the Honorable H. Matthew Curry, J.S.C. at the Warren County Courthouse in Belvidere on March 31, 2017.

Atkinson, age 42, of Columbia, NJ, pled guilty to Aggravated Manslaughter in the first degree and Aggravated Sexual Assault of a minor in the first degree. Sentencing is presently scheduled for May 19, 2017.

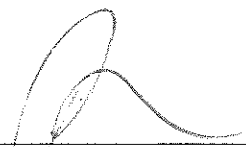
In exchange for his pleas of guilty to Aggravated Manslaughter in the 1st degree and Aggravated Sexual Assault, also a 1st degree offense, the State agreed to recommend a sentence of twenty-six (26) years in New Jersey State Prison subject to the No Early Release Act on the Aggravated Manslaughter charge and a sentence of twenty (20) years in the New Jersey State Prison, also subject to the No Early Release Act, for the guilty plea to the 1st degree Aggravated Sexual Assault charge. On the Aggravated Sexual Assault charge, Atkinson is also subject to Parole Supervision for Life, Megan's Law Registration and a Permanent Nicole's Law Restraining Order. Both sentences shall be served concurrently.

During his plea allocution, defendant Atkinson stated that on May 14, 2014, he got into an argument with his girlfriend at her home in Washington Borough. During the interaction, Atkinson admitted striking the victim in the head with a hammer several times and to stabbing her in chest with a knife, causing the victim's death. Atkinson also admitted that between early May 2014 and May 14, 2014, he engaged in ongoing sexual acts of penetration with the victim's minor child who was under the age of thirteen (13).

Ralph Atkinson was represented by John McGuigan, Esq. and the State was represented by Assistant Prosecutor Victor R. Jusino and Assistant Prosecutor Amy M. Knutsen.

Approved by:

Dated: March 31, 2017



RICHARD T. BURKE
WARREN COUNTY PROSECUTOR