



NEWS RELEASE
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March 8, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR STRANGULATION MURDER

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Jerome George Poole, 61, of Springfield, Missouri was sentenced today in the strangulation death of Crystal Dye. Jerome Poole, was convicted by a jury of second-degree murder in 2023. It took the jury about an hour to find Poole guilty following a two-day trial in December of 2023 in Greene County Circuit Judge Kaiti Greenwade’s courtroom.

“Mr. Poole has taken zero accountability for what he’s done,” Greene County First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Emily Shook said at the sentencing hearing. “He denies he did anything wrong. He expressed numerous times he doesn’t understand how he got here.” Shook said Poole has sent letters to Springfield Police Department’s Internal Affairs, accusing first responders of making it look like Dye had been strangled when they attempted life-saving measures on her unresponsive body. Shook reminded the court of evidence presented during the trial about the brutal injuries to Dye’s body and Poole’s repeated claims to not know her and not know her name. “He didn’t think anyone would look carefully at Crystal Dye’s death,” Shook said.

The evidence at trial showed that it was Poole who called police officers to his home at 206 S. Clifton Ave. around 3:30 a.m. on March 7, 2023. Poole reported a woman was unconscious and not breathing. In video footage from police body cameras shown during the trial, Poole can be seen speaking with police officers while paramedics tried for several minutes to save Dye.

In the footage, Poole can be heard telling police that Dye was “up and talking” 15 minutes prior to his 911 call. Poole said he’d been talking to Dye while he was doing

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. POOLE, 2331-CR00875-01

dishes, but didn't receive a response, so he went to check on her. Poole told officers he thought Dye was asleep at first, but then called 911 after splashing water on her and still getting no response. Poole repeatedly denied knowing Dye very well or even knowing her name. According to information presented at trial, Dye had been homeless for several years. "She just comes by," Poole said to the officers. "It really didn't matter to me what her name is..." Poole told the responding officers that Dye stopped by his place around 8:30 p.m. March 6. They had dinner, talked and then Dye went to lie down in Poole's bedroom. And that was it.

It was not immediately clear what caused Dye's death, so Poole was not arrested when police initially responded. During the autopsy, Greene County Medical Examiner Dr. Deiter Duff multiple blunt force injuries to Dye's head, face, back, arms and legs, as well as injuries to her neck indicating she had been strangled. She also had fractured ribs that were not caused by CPR.

This case was prosecuted by First Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Emily Shook and Philip Fuhrman. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective James Sweet was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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