



Man Sentenced to 22 Years to Life in Dayton Teen's Death

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2014

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This morning, Michael Geldrich, 37, of Franklin was sentenced in Warren County Common Pleas Court to 22 years to life in prison for his convictions for Aggravated Murder, Aggravated Robbery, Kidnapping, and Tampering with Evidence in relation to the December 1, 2013 death of 16-year-old Dione Payne of Dayton.

On May 8, 2014, Geldrich pled guilty to beating Payne to death in Geldrich's Franklin home. Geldrich allowed Payne to stay at his home in order to sell drugs. While Payne was at Geldrich's home, Geldrich recruited Michael Jay Watson to rob Payne of money and drugs. As Payne slept, Geldrich struck Payne with a table leg and, along with Watson, put a pillowcase over Payne's head and duct-taped him. When Payne did not tell Geldrich and Watson the location of the money or drugs, both Geldrich and Watson repeatedly beat Payne rendering him unresponsive. After some time, Geldrich and Watson drove Payne to Atrium Hospital and left him there without providing any identifying information.

When Payne was taken into the emergency room, he had no breath and no pulse. Payne was later care-flighted to Miami Valley Hospital where he died from his injuries. Geldrich testified to these facts in chilling detail during Watson's trial the week of July 28th.

Dione Payne's mother, Tamiko Payne, was so distraught from the loss of her son that she was not able to be present for Geldrich's sentencing. However, Jessica Flint from the Warren County Prosecutors Office read a prepared statement. In her statement, Tamiko Payne called Geldrich "the leader of them all." She told Geldrich that "[y]ou killed my baby to support your heroin habit....you are the one who has to suffer and face life behind the prison bars. All I have are memories of my Dione."

Geldrich was sentenced to 22 years to life in prison for the Aggravated Murder and three years each for Aggravated Robbery and Kidnapping. Those sentences shall run concurrently with each other. Geldrich will also serve 24 months in prison for Tampering with Evidence. The Tampering with Evidence sentence will run consecutively to the other sentences.

Warren County Prosecutor David Fornshell complimented the Franklin Police Department for their excellent investigation and quick resolution of the case, as well as the efforts of Assistant Prosecutors Derek Faulkner and Teresa Hiett. “Their commitment to this case assured all those responsible were brought to justice.”



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