



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
Adams County Courthouse  
117 Baltimore Street, Room 301  
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  
17325

BRIAN. R. SINNETT  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PHONE (717)337-9840  
FAX (717)334-3859

**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Contact: Brian R. Sinnett, District Attorney  
Adams County  
Office (717)337-9840**

**GARTRELL IS DETERMINED TO BE A SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATOR AND  
SENTENCED TO LIFE PLUS TWENTY YEARS**

Adams County District Attorney Brian Sinnett announced that Kristopher Zackarias Gartrell was sentenced today in Adams County to life plus twenty years for the vicious and heinous murder and sexual assault of Virginia Barbour in November 2018. Gartrell pleaded guilty on November 30, 2020 to Murder of the Second Degree, Rape, Aggravated Arson and Burglary as a result of the crimes he committed at the address on Peach Glen-Idaville Road the day before Thanksgiving in 2018. Friends and family of Mrs. Barbour provided impact statements to the Court before Judge Thomas R. Campbell who imposed the sentence. Also, after conducting hearing, Judge Campbell determined that Gartrell met the criteria to be classified as a sexually violent predator pursuant to Pennsylvania law.

District Attorney Sinnett commented that “the crimes committed by Gartrell are as bad as any we have seen during my time as a prosecutor in Adams County. This defendant was an absconder from the state of South Carolina after committing violent sexual offenses there and it is tragic that he found his way to our community and took the life of someone so beloved. Although this sentencing today insures that Gartrell will never leave the prison setting alive, it still falls short of being sufficient to atone for the acts that he committed. We hope in some way this provides some small step toward closure for the friends and family of Mrs. Barbour.”

Gartrell’s girlfriend at the time, Sheila Schriver, still has charges pending due to her role as an accomplice with Gartrell following the commission of the murder. Schriver’s case is next scheduled for Court on May 27, 2021.

Sinnett also commended the thorough and exhaustive investigation of the Pennsylvania State Police through this case.

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