

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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Pickens County Courthouse
214 E. Main St., B-220
Pickens, SC 29671

Solicitor
W. Walter Wilkins

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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

February 22, 2017

**Pickens Man Sentenced on Voluntary Manslaughter,
Possession of a Weapon during a Violent Crime**

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that Justin Douglas O'Bryant, age 29, pled guilty on February 22, 2017, in Pickens County to voluntary manslaughter, and was sentenced to 28 years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections by the Honorable Letitia Verdin. The Defendant also pled guilty to possession of a weapon during a violent crime and received a 5 year sentence, to run concurrent to the 28 year sentence. The Defendant will have to serve at least eighty-five percent of his sentence before he is eligible for parole.

Evidence presented at the plea hearing by Senior Assistant Solicitor Doug Richardson established that on April 12th, 2014, the victim in the case, Michael Collins and Justin O'Bryant were in a verbal disagreement. The victim pushed the defendant down, at which point the defendant pulled a gun from his waist band and shot the victim. The bullet entered the defendant's left arm and traveled through his chest to his right arm. The victim died from his injuries almost immediately.