State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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Simpsonville Man Convicted of Solicitation of the Felony of Murder

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that a Greenville County, SC jury convicted Defendant PHILLIP JOSEPH STEGALL, age 39, of Solicitation of the Felony of Murder on September 11th, 2015.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant Solicitor Stan Overby with the 13th Circuit Solicitor's Office and investigated by Lieutenant Jim Donnelly of the Simpsonville Police Department. The facts presented at trial indicated that on January 25th, 2014, the Defendant approached a former employee in his landscaping business about a plan to kill his ex-wife and that he would pay the employee $5000 to carry the plan out. The Defendant told the former employee that he would be back by his residence the next day to proceed. The former employee notified law enforcement of the request and an operation was jointly planned by the Greenville County Sheriff's Office and the Simpsonville Police Department to apprehend the Defendant before his plan could go forward.

On January 26th, 2014, the Defendant appeared at the second meeting with the tools necessary to execute the plan, including a gun and binoculars. Further, the Defendant discussed the plan with the former employee, who was wearing a radio transmitter. The State presented evidence that the Defendant had previously threatened his ex-wife and further that he was highly displeased with the child custody arrangement established in the divorce.

The Honorable D. Garrison Hill sentenced the Defendant to ten years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections.