

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

August 15, 2013

Greenville Man Sentenced for Murder

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that on August 14, 2013 a Greenville County jury took only thirty minutes to find 49 year old NATHANIEL BERNARD BEEKS guilty of the murder of his long time girlfriend, fifty year old Marsha Smith. Beeks was sentenced to life in prison by the Honorable Mark Hayes. Beeks is not eligible for parole.

Evidence presented during the trial showed that Beeks strangled Marsha Smith to death in the apartment on McCullough Street that she was sharing with her adult daughter, Faith Smith. On the evening of April 23, 2011 Faith Smith arrived at the apartment after a birthday party, just as Beeks was leaving. Beeks got into Marsha Smith's Honda and drove away. Faith Smith discovered the body of her mother in the apartment seconds later. Greenville City Police were called to the scene at that time.

Beeks fled to the Atlanta area where he was arrested and waived extradition back to Greenville County. Beeks did not deny killing Smith when questioned by Greenville City detectives. He claimed he just snapped. Beeks attorney asked the jury to consider finding Beeks guilty of the lesser offense of voluntary manslaughter. Two of Marsha Smiths daughters and her elderly mother testified that the relationship had been waning for some time.