

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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PRESS RELEASE

January 30, 2012

Pickens Man Sentenced On Burglary First Degree

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that KARL RYAN LANE, age 23, was convicted on January 27, 2012 by a Pickens County jury of Burglary First Degree, and sentenced to 215 months in the South Carolina Department of Corrections by the Honorable Edward G. Welmaker. LANE will have to serve 85% of the nearly 18 year sentence before he is eligible for parole.

Evidence presented at trial by Assistant Solicitor Jenny Barwick established that on April 21, 2011, LANE entered the victim's residence located in Liberty, SC while the victim was away at work. Once inside the home, LANE armed himself with some of the victim's firearms located inside a gun safe. Some of the firearms were family heirlooms used in World Wars I and II.

The defendant was apprehended when a neighbor observed an unusual vehicle parked in the victim's driveway, and was able to give specific details about the vehicle to the Pickens County Sheriff's Office. The defendant's application card for unemployment benefits was also found beside the victim's driveway. The card contained the defendant's computer access user name and password. Detective Benjamin Dow with the Sheriff's Office was able to use the information on the card to locate the defendant's address. A vehicle matching the description provided by the neighbor was found in the defendant's driveway the day after the incident. Upon questioning, the defendant admitted to Detective Dow that he not only drove the vehicle the day of the incident, but that he had also been by the unemployment office the same day.