



**Office of Genesee County Prosecutor
David Leyton**

PRESS RELEASE

Date: January 16, 2014
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DETROIT MAN CONVICTED IN JULY 2012 TRIPLE HOMICIDE

FLINT – Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton reported that a jury has convicted James Paul Simpkins II, 21 of Detroit (d.o.b. 6-18-1992), of three counts of first degree murder and other crimes related to a triple homicide in Flint in 2012.

“I am very pleased with the jury’s verdict and the outstanding work done by assistant prosecutor Barney Whitesman in preparing and trying this case and the diligent work of the Flint Police and Michigan State Police in seeing that James Simpkins was brought to justice,” said Prosecutor Leyton.

The basic facts of the case are that on July 17, 2012, two young women from Detroit were visiting the boyfriend of one of them at a house on the corner of Tacken and Frazer Streets in the City of Flint. A friend of the boyfriend’s was also present along with defendant James Simpkins who was the boyfriend’s brother. Through the afternoon and late into the evening, the two women and the boyfriend and his friend hung out at the house, went out to eat and purchased alcohol, and drank and smoked marijuana at the house. All the while, Simpkins was present in the house but did not talk or socialize with the others and was in possession of a handgun which he was openly displaying.

At one point, while the four friends were drinking and smoking marijuana in a bedroom, Simpkins fired off a bullet in the living room and then entered the bedroom and shot all four victims, killing Simpkins’ brother and his girlfriend immediately. The male friend survived initially and Simpkins began stomping on his head with his feet and he later died. The sole surviving victim, the female friend of the girlfriend, was shot four times in the groin and tried to fire the defendant’s gun which was on the floor but there were no bullets. She and Simpkins then got into a physical fight and he attempted to sexually assault her and choked her until she lost consciousness. When the victim regained consciousness later in the early morning hours of July 18th, she found the house completely dark and all three of the other victims were dead. Severely wounded, she crawled to a window, opened it, and dove outside onto the ground and then crawled to a neighbor’s house who then called 9-1-1.

Five hours later, James Simpkins himself called 9-1-1 to report that his brother and three others were killed at the house by a man in a black ski mask. He claimed he was sleeping at the time and awoke to find the others dead. He was apprehended a mile and a half from the murder scene wearing bloody clothes that had been described by the surviving victim.

Simpkins faces life in prison without the possibility of parole when he is sentenced on February 6th.

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