



## **AG ANNOUNCES THAT COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS UPHOLDS MOBILE COUNTY MURDER CONVICTION**

(MONTGOMERY) –Attorney General Luther Strange announced that the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals on Friday upheld the murder conviction of Willie Daye Vance Jr. Vance, 32, of Saraland, was convicted in the Mobile County Circuit Court in January of 2014 for the murder of his mother Gloria Vance.

Evidence was introduced at trial indicating that Willie Vance Jr. had shown mental instability for several years before the murder and that he had undergone in-patient treatment. On May 11, 2012, emergency medical technicians and the Saraland Fire Department were dispatched to 836 Second Avenue in Saraland where they found Vance's mother, Gloria Vance, dead from strangulation. Vance told the Fire Chief that he and his mother had gotten into an argument about food and that the argument had turned physical. He further stated that he had choked his mother to get her off him. Conflicting evidence was presented during the trial as to whether Vance had mental illness.

The case was prosecuted at trial by Mobile County District Attorney Ashley Rich's office. Vance was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment, the sentence was split to serve five years, with five years probation thereafter. The trial court ordered Vance to undergo mental health treatment. Vance subsequently sought to have his conviction reversed on appeal.

The Attorney General's Appeals Division handled the case during the appeals process, arguing for the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals to affirm the conviction. The Court did so in a decision issued on Friday, November 14.

Attorney General Strange commended Assistant Attorney General Yvonne Saxon of the Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Division for her successful work in this case.

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