



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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## Press Release

### Man admits to killing fellow inmate

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A 55-year-old inmate stopped his murder trial this week and pled guilty to killing a fellow inmate at MCI-Norfolk December 12, 2011, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

"On the third day of trial Thursday, just after the testimony of the Medical Examiner, Dr. Kimberley Springer, Christopher Fletcher stopped the trial and pled guilty to second degree murder," District Attorney Morrissey said. "He was sentenced to life in prison. He was already serving multiple life terms for murders in other counties at the time of this murder."

During an audiotaped interview on Dec. 14, with his attorney present with him, Fletcher detailed the murder of Richard Silva, 64. He stated that he had "smashed his head in with a rock." A rock had been found outside the building under a bathroom window in the prison the day after the killing; Fletcher told investigators that he washed the rock and dropped it out of a bathroom window. Subsequent forensic testing showed Silva's DNA on the rock. Silva's autopsy had determined that the cause of death was blunt force trauma to the head.

Silva was serving a sentence for a child sexual assault and was due to be released from prison soon after he was murdered. Fletcher told investigators his motive for the murder was that he believed Silva would re-offend after release.

The case was being presented by Assistant District Attorney Craig F. Kowalski working with Victim/Witness Advocate Beth Avola, Morrissey said. "This was a strong case based on a solid investigation. Assistant District Attorney Kowalski and Beth Avola had put great time and effort into trial preparation. We pleased to see this result," Morrissey said.

Fletcher was sentenced to life in prison by Judge Robert C. Cosgrove. At the time he committed the Silva murder Fletcher was serving a life sentence without parole after having been found guilty of the 1995 murder of 48 year old Elizabeth Salsbury in Lunenburg. The defendant is also serving another life sentence for the 1986 murder of 24 year old Peggy Sue Cavillo in Lancaster, which he admitted to while in prison.