



Michael W. Morrissey
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PRESS RELEASE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

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*Pending charges represent accusations:
all defendants are presumed innocent unless
and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable
doubt under the United States Constitution.*

Plainville man not guilty by reason Of insanity in mother's murder

The Plainville man indicted for murder by stabbing his 51-year-old mother to death in their home in October 2019 was found not guilty by reason of insanity following a jury-waived trial in Norfolk Superior Court, Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey announced.

Sean Murphy, now 25, was age 21 and living in his parents Landau Street home in Plainville when Carlyn D. Murphy, 51, was found dead in the home at approximately 10:14 p.m. on Thursday, October 24, 2019.

Murphy was arrested overnight in nearby Foxboro, pled not guilty at his Wrentham District Court arraignment before Judge Steven Thomas, and has been held since that date – primarily at the Bridgewater State Hospital.

“Mr. Murphy underwent a mental health evaluation by request of defense and found to be not criminally responsible for his actions on the night of the murder,” District Attorney Morrissey said. “Assistant District Attorney Carolyn Hely sought a second opinion, and the second examiner confirmed the lack of criminal responsibility.”

The defendant elected a jury-waived trial and the matter was heard by Norfolk Superior Court Judge Beverly Cannone on Thursday, October 12, 2023. The Court entered a verdict of Not Guilty by reason of lack of criminal responsibility the same day, ordering that Sean Murphy return to Bridgewater State Hospital under the provisions of [Chap. 123 Section 16 \(a\)](#).

(View contemporaneous press release [here](#).)

“I extend my thanks to the Plainville Police for their partnership in this investigation, and the State Police detectives and crime scene personnel who put this case together,” District Attorney Morrissey said.

“Cases involving family members and mental health present particular complexities – our society has provisions for dealing with criminal acts that result from mental illness,” District Attorney Morrissey said. “I thank Assistant District Attorney Carolyn Hely and Victim/Witness Advocate Jennifer Bishop for their work seeing this case through to this result.”