

## **MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

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### **MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR KILLING RELATIVE ON CHRISTMAS EVE**

(May 5, 2010...Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that William Creel, 47, of Akron, was sentenced to 20 years to life in prison - 18 years on the Murder charge with a gun specification and two years on the Tampering with Evidence charge.

On April 29, 2010, Creel was found guilty by a jury of Murder (with a gun specification) for purposely killing his niece's husband, 19-year-old Joshua Simmons, also of Akron. Creel was also convicted of Felonious Assault and Discharging a Firearm into a Habitation, felonies of the second degree, and Tampering with Evidence, a felony of the third degree. He was acquitted of Aggravated Murder.

Simmons, who was mentally ill, had recently married Creel's niece and lived next door to Creel in an abandoned house on Newton Street. On December 24, 2009 at 11:45 p.m., Creel took out a rifle and shot Simmons while he stood in the window of his house. Simmons was shot in the forehead and died on Christmas Day at Akron City Hospital.