



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

CONTACT: James Pollack
Phone: (330) 604-2739
pollack@prosecutor.summitoh.net
Twitter: @ProsecutorWalsh
Thursday, April 7, 2016

Eric Hendon Found Guilty on All Counts in Barberton Triple Murder

AKRON, Ohio (Thursday, April 7, 2016) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that a Summit County jury found Eric Hendon, 33, of Fawler Avenue in Akron guilty on all counts in the murders of John Kohler, his 18-year-old step-daughter Ashley Carpenter, and his 14-year-old son David Carpenter-Kohler, as well as the attempted murder of Ronda Blankenship on December 31, 2013 in Barberton.

Jurors found Hendon guilty of the following charges:

- Five counts of Aggravated Murder - special felonies
- Each count of Aggravated Murder has two death specifications, as well as gun specifications
- Attempted Murder with a gun specification – a felony of the 1st degree
- Five counts of Aggravated Robbery each with a gun specification - felonies of the 1st degree
- Two counts of Felonious Assault each with a gun specification - felonies of the 2nd degree

On the evening of December 31, 2013, Hendon, armed with a gun, forced his way into the Barberton home of John Kohler with the intent of stealing money and drugs. In the process of the robbery, 42-year-old John Kohler, his 18-year-old step-daughter Ashley Carpenter, and his 14-year-old son David Carpenter-Kohler, were shot and killed. Kohler's live-in girlfriend, Ronda Blankenship, was shot in the head and stabbed in the face, but survived. Blankenship lost an eye as a result of the shooting.

--continued--

Eric Hendon's brother Michael is currently serving a life sentence without parole in connection with the crime after jurors found him guilty on August 28, 2015 of the following charges:

- Three counts of Aggravated Murder – felonies of the first degree
- One count of Attempted Murder – a felony of the first degree
- Five counts of Aggravated Robbery – felonies of the first degree
- Two counts of Felonious Assault – felonies of the second degree

The sentencing phase of the trial is scheduled to begin on April 19, 2016.

*additional information –

The potential sentences for aggravated murder are death, life without parole, and life with parole after 20, 25, or 30 years in prison.