

February 21, 2019

Steve Marshall
Alabama Attorney General



For More Information, contact:

Mike Lewis (334) 353-2199

Joy Patterson (334) 242-7491

Page 1 of 2

Attorney General Steve Marshall Announces 16-Year Prison Sentence of Bibb County Man for Hindering Prosecution

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steve Marshall announced that a Centreville man was sentenced to 16 years in prison for helping his cousin evade capture after murdering one woman and kidnapping and assaulting her sister. Gary Wade Rowland was sentenced yesterday in Bibb County Circuit Court. Rowland was a habitual offender with prior convictions for vehicular homicide and drug crimes.

Rowland’s cousin, John Barry Hubbard of Eoline, is serving a sentence of life imprisonment without parole for the murder of Kandi Murphy during his abduction of her sister, Tammy Carpenter. Hubbard had been in a relationship with Carpenter, the murder victim’s sister. Carpenter had sought a protective order because she feared that he would carry out his threats of violence.

Carpenter’s worst fears were realized on the afternoon of July 21, 2015, when her sister’s children saw Hubbard come out of the woods carrying two guns and enter Carpenter’s home in Brent. Hubbard shot Murphy multiple times in the presence of her toddler daughter, and struck Carpenter with a firearm in the head to subdue and abduct her. Murphy called 911 and stated, “John Barry Hubbard shot me” and that she was dying. When officers arrived, Murphy told them that Hubbard had shot her. She was taken to a hospital where she was pronounced dead.

Afterward, Hubbard took Carpenter from Bibb County into the Ocmulgee National Forest in Hale County, where he held her against her will and raped and sodomized her. The next morning, he called his family to help him escape and Gary Wade Rowland came to his cousin’s aid.

Rowland admitted later that he knew Hubbard was wanted for capital murder after killing Murphy, but nevertheless Rowland wanted to help him because he was family. Rowland came and transported Hubbard and Carpenter from the forest to a hotel in Greene County, where Rowland had registered a room in his name. He also took and hid a long gun on family property in Bibb County. Hubbard continued to terrorize Carpenter, raping and sodomizing her again. After she was able to get a message to



staff at a nearby restaurant, an Alabama Law Enforcement Agency tactical team rescued Carpenter and took Hubbard into custody on the evening of July 22.

“It is appropriate that Gary Wade Rowland now faces justice and will serve 16 years in prison,” said Attorney General Marshall. “He had the opportunity to end John Barry Hubbard’s torment of Tammy Carpenter, and instead he put family above human decency and above the law. Rowland chose to help her tormentor. He made it possible for his cousin to continue brutalizing Tammy Carpenter after Hubbard had coldly murdered her sister Kandi Murphy. A civilized society cannot tolerate a crime such as this.”

The Attorney General’s Criminal Trials Division presented evidence to a Bibb County grand jury in December 2016, resulting in indictments against Hubbard and Rowland, and prosecuted both cases.

Attorney General Marshall General commended those involved in bringing the cases to a successful conclusion, noting in particular Assistant Attorneys General Andrew Arrington and John Hensley of his Criminal Trials Division, Special Agents of his Investigations Division, and Victims Service Officers Sarah Greene and Ashley Harbin. He also thanked the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, which led the investigation, and Bibb County Sheriff Jody Wade.