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Attorney General Steve Marshall Announces Court of Criminal Appeals Upholds Capital Murder Conviction in Russell County

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steve Marshall announced that the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals affirmed the capital murder conviction of Lisa Leane Graham. Graham, 51, of Phenix City, was convicted in Russell County Circuit Court in March 2015 for the murder-for-hire contract killing of her daughter, Stephanie “Shea” Graham.

The evidence presented at trial showed that Lisa Graham arranged for Kenneth Walton to kill Shea Graham. Walton, who had served time in prison for drug distribution, was associated with the Grahams through his work for the family’s construction company. Part of the conflict between Lisa and Shea Graham stemmed from the daughter’s arrest for a drive-by shooting for which the mother had posted \$100,000 bond. On July 5, 2007, Lisa Graham met Walton and provided him with a 9 mm pistol. That evening, Walton met with Shea Graham under the pretense of helping her find a vehicle, drove toward Eufaula and stopped at the end of Highway 165 in Russell County for her to get out of the vehicle for a few moments. Walton then retrieved the gun and shot her two times in the head and four times in the chest.

Russell County District Attorney Ken Davis’ office prosecuted this case and obtained a conviction against Lisa Graham, who was sentenced to death. Walton pleaded guilty to murder and is serving a sentence of life imprisonment.

The Attorney General’s Capital Litigation Division handled the Graham case during the appeals process, arguing for the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals to affirm the conviction. The Court did so in a decision issued on July 12. Attorney General Marshall commended Assistant Attorney General Audrey Jordan and former Assistant Attorney General Stephen Frisby for their successful work on this case.

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