



Office of the State's Attorney  
Madison County, Illinois  
Thomas A. Haine  
State's Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Haine announces guilty conviction and 60-year sentence in woman's murder**

**Edwardsville, IL** — Madison County State's Attorney Tom Haine announced today that a defendant charged in the decapitation murder of a pregnant woman in Alton has been convicted and sentenced to 60 years in prison.

Deundrea S. Holloway, 25, of Alton received the sentence Friday in Circuit Court in Madison County after pleading guilty to first-degree murder, intentional homicide of an unborn child and concealment of a homicidal death.

Holloway pleaded guilty to murdering Liese Dodd, 22, at her apartment in Alton on June 9, 2022. Dodd, who was nearly 8 months pregnant, had an on-and-off relationship with Holloway.

Dodd's mother became concerned after she couldn't get ahold of Dodd. The mother went to the apartment and discovered Dodd's body. Dodd's neck was cut, and her head was placed in an outdoor garbage bin nearby.

Twice during the pendency of Holloway's case, the defense raised questions regarding his fitness to stand trial, resulting in court-ordered psychological evaluations. At one point, the Court determined Holloway to be mentally unfit to stand trial, resulting in the defendant being treated at a state institution for a period of months, until he regained fitness to stand trial.

In addition, during the pendency of the case, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled that an unborn child cannot be construed as a second murder victim for purposes of seeking a sentence of life in prison.

"For the family and loved ones of Liese, these types of issues have caused continued angst and uncertainty. This guilty conviction ends that," Haine said. "Our hope is that this conviction and sentence provide the family and loved ones some assurance and will be a step toward healing."

An investigation by Alton Police Department resulted in Holloway quickly being identified as a suspect and taken into custody in Gillespie.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Lauren Maricle, who is chief of the Violent Crimes Unit at the State's Attorney's Office, and Crystal Uhe of the Illinois State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor's Office.

Haine commended the prosecutors, Alton Police and other agencies that assisted in the investigation and arrest, including Madison County Coroner's Office, Madison County Sheriff's Office, ISP Division of Forensic Services, Litchfield Police Department and Gillespie Police Department.

"I want to express my deepest gratitude to the prosecutors and law enforcement agencies who worked diligently to secure this outcome. Their commitment to justice helped ensure that the victim's loved ones could see accountability delivered," Haine said.

He added: "This case has been difficult for everyone. Obviously, it has been traumatic for Liese's family. With this resolution, they were spared the additional trauma associated with a trial. My heart goes out to the family, whose strength, courage and resiliency during this process have been truly remarkable."

Alton Police Chief Jarrett Ford said: "I commend the exceptional efforts of our patrol officers and detectives in swiftly resolving the investigation of the tragic murder of Liese Dodd and her unborn child. Their unwavering dedication and meticulous investigative work led to the prompt apprehension of the suspect, Deundrea S. Holloway."