



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Pleads Guilty to Murder in Stabbing Death of Woman in Wheelchair

Shawn Lewis Lopez (DOB 07/07/91) was sentenced to life in prison without parole Friday after pleading guilty to first-degree murder in the stabbing death of Francine Reade.

Lopez also pleaded guilty to attempted escape from community corrections in a previous drug case and was sentenced to an additional six years in prison. Other charges in the murder case were dismissed as part of a plea bargain.

"I will never understand this type of a crime," said Adams County District Judge Jill-Ellyn Straus. "I can't begin to imagine the fear and terror Ms. Reade must have felt in her last moments."

Reade, 67, was found stabbed in the neck April 25 night in her wheelchair at 15075 E. Colfax Avenue in Aurora. According to court documents, Lopez told police he pushed her behind a building and decided to rob and kill her.

"This was a senseless act," said District Attorney Dave Young. "This defendant attacked a defenseless woman in a wheelchair. According to evidence, he did this because he wanted to know what it was like to kill someone. The swift resolution of this case spares Francine Reade's family from reliving these horrific events during a trial. The defendant received the same maximum sentence he would have received if convicted after a trial and the only appropriate sentence – life in prison without parole."

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