



NEWS RELEASE

June 26, 2013
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Man Sentenced to Life in Prison in Shooting Death of Woman

Lawrence Raymond Crouch (DOB 03/05/50) was sentenced to life in prison without parole plus 57 years Friday in Broomfield County District Court for first-degree murder in the shooting death of a woman at her workplace and attempted first-degree murder of another woman last October.

Crouch was convicted Friday morning of first-degree murder (F1), attempted first-degree murder (F2), attempted first-degree arson (F4) and attempted possession of an explosive or incendiary device (F5).

"This was one of the most cowardly acts I've ever seen or heard about in court," said Broomfield District Court Judge Patrick Murphy. "The defendant's conduct going in and murdering in cold blood a defenseless person, a woman, working, a woman who means so much to her family. My heart goes out to the family."

Mary McGrath, 56, of Broomfield, died after Crouch shot her five times in the chest as she answered the phone at East of Sweden auto repair shop at 155 Commerce Street in Broomfield on October 12. According to testimony and court records, Crouch told police he did it for "stress relief" and had been planning to kill McGrath for about a year.

Crouch also told police that he planned to kill Amber Carr, an employee at the Extended Stay hotel in Lakewood, where he lived, because he was upset about how his bills had been handled. He told police he prepared a Molotov cocktail out of gin and soap that he planned to throw behind the counter to set fire to Carr and the hotel after he shot her. This plan was thwarted, he said, when Carr was not in work, so he left and drove to the repair shop where McGrath worked.

"This was a cold-blooded assassination that was planned and meticulously executed by a dangerous man who will now be removed from society for the rest of his life," said District Attorney Dave Young. "We are very thankful for the jury's verdict. Justice has been achieved for the family of Mary McGrath, for Amber Carr and the citizens of Broomfield. I would like to thank prosecutors Joe Pacyga and Amy Petri-Beard for their tireless efforts in this case as well as the great work the Broomfield Police Department did in the investigation of this case."

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