



NEWS RELEASE

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Seth Wilkinson Sentenced to Life in Prison in Shooting Death of Former Girlfriend

Seth Erin Wilkinson (DOB 12/22/91) was sentenced to life in prison without parole Friday for first-degree murder after deliberation in the shooting death of his former girlfriend in 2012.

Wilkinson went to 20-year-old Antida Archuleta's workplace at the Savannah Suites Hotel in Westminster on December 14, 2012 and shot her three times in the head. She was also shot in the arm. When police arrived, they found Archuleta in a pool of blood and Wilkinson standing over her, bleeding, with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to his chin.

"He took the life of this young woman and took away all the potential she could have given to the community, her family and to his family," District Attorney Dave Young told the judge during the sentencing hearing. "When you shoot someone the way he did, at point-blank range, quite frankly a sentence to life in prison without parole is appropriate. His actions on that day are why he will be in prison the rest of his life."

Wilkinson had gone to Archuleta's grandparents' home earlier in the day and confronted her about her new boyfriend, threatening to kill himself. Archuleta called Wilkinson's parents and his father came to the home and took him away. Later that afternoon he told his parents he was going to an office Christmas party. Instead he went to Savannah Suites armed with a .45 caliber revolver, looking for Archuleta. The next day, police found a suicide note in his bedroom that Wilkinson had written to his family.

Adams County District Judge Robert Kiesnowski Jr., said Wilkinson deserved to spend the rest of his life in prison. "We understand how your life ends – behind bars," Kiesnowski said. "It is just and right that you suffer for your actions in this matter."

The Adams County District Court jury rejected Wilkinson's claim that he was not guilty by reason of insanity, deliberating little more than an hour before convicting him as charged in April of one count of first-degree murder after deliberation (F1).

"I want to thank the jury again for their attention and dedication in serving on this case and reaching the right verdict," Young said. "Justice is served in this case, but it will never bring Antida back to her family."

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