



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Man Convicted and Sentenced to Life in Prison in Slaying of Aurora Woman**

Christopher Michael Winters was convicted Friday of first-degree murder after deliberation and sentenced to life in prison without parole Friday in the death of Coresa Breault.

"I am very grateful that the jury delivered a just verdict in this case and I hope that Coresa Breault's family have a sense of closure now that the defendant will be spending the rest of his life in prison for this brutal murder," said District Attorney Dave Young. "The trial team of Patrick Costigan and Stephanie Fritts did a tremendous job in seeking the truth on this case."

Winters (DOB 01/20/71) killed Breault May 23, 2015 after she returned to their home at 1769 Beeler St. in Aurora and discovered him in the middle of an unusual sex act. Aurora police found 44-year-old Breault dead in a bedroom of the home on May 26 after being called by her daughter after family members became concerned when they could not reach her for several days.

According to evidence presented in the trial this week at Adams County District Court, Breault left work after working the night shift as a taxi dispatcher at 7 a.m. and planned to go home but Winters called and texted her to delay her return, using various pretexts. She finally became fed up and returned to the home after 11 a.m.

"He suffered from the stigmatism of his unspeakable sexual fetish," Chief Deputy District Attorney Patrick Costigan told the jury in closing arguments. He said that Winters strangled Breault to death after she walked in on him and found him engaging in a bizarre sexual fetish. "She struggled for her life. She fought back," Costigan said. "She fought for her life and he took her life."

Winters gave various versions of what happened in a graphic three-hour interview with police. He said he routinely arranged for strangers to come to his home to physically and sexually abuse him while he was blindfolded, and blamed these unknown individuals for causing him to unintentionally strangle Breault.

Prosecutors argued that story was false, pointing out that Breault was strangled with such force that bones in her neck were crushed.

The jury deliberated less than a day before convicting Winters as charged of first-degree murder after deliberation (F1).

“This unspeakable tragedy was born by Mr. Winter’s selfishness,” Costigan said at the sentencing hearing. “What he did ripped apart the family. He took a mother, a friend and a grandmother from everyone in that family, all because he was not prepared for her to learn the full extent of his secret. That is why she is not here today.”

Family members and friends told the court they were devastated by her death. “My mom made a big impact on those she touched,” said her son, Ryan Breault. “Ever since her death I’ve felt missing a very large part of my heart. I don’t care about any fetish. I just want to know why she had to pay her life for whatever happened. I wish I knew the truth.”

In imposing the mandatory life sentence without parole, Adams County District Judge Wasserman called the murder “a needless waste of a good person’s life. Why do you take the life of an innocent good person who has done nothing but support you?”

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