



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Man Sentenced to 44 years in Home Invasion Murder**

Ronnie Williams was sentenced to 44 years in prison Thursday in the Adams County murder of 55-year-old Steven Kent who was shot to death in his bed in 2016 with his disabled 80-year-old mother in the next room.

Ronnie Williams (DOB 08/24/81) and Corey Carroll (DOB 11/15/91) broke into the home at 16400 Tucson Street on December 8, 2016, wearing ski masks and rubber gloves to steal marijuana. Marilyn Kent, who lived at the home with her son, said she and her son were sleeping when the men broke into the home.

Marilyn Kent, who is disabled and was on oxygen, said she heard yelling in her son's bedroom and then a series of shots. Williams came into her bedroom and held a gun to her head, threatening to kill her before Carroll told him not to shoot her. They grabbed two freezer bags of marijuana and left. Steven Kent was shot six times.

Williams pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in a plea agreement that called for a sentence of 30 to 44 years. Carroll pleaded guilty to aggravated robbery and will be sentenced at 8:30 a.m. on February 8 in Division Q of Adams County District Court.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Alex Baker told the judge that Williams had cased the home the previous day before returning late in the night with his .45 caliber handgun and wearing a mask to "carry out his acts of cowardice and brutality. He terrorized an 80-year-old woman in her own home, holding a gun to her face and threatening to kill her and then killing her own son. Despite the fact that Steven Kent was asleep, the defendant went into his bedroom and brutally murdered him, shooting him six times. These are acts of severity and brutality beyond comprehension."

Baker asked for the maximum sentence of 44 years in prison, which Adams County District Judge Sharon Holbrook imposed.

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