



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Public Information

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### **Man Sentenced to 30 Years for Second-degree Murder in Beating Death of his Wife**

Robert Shawn Main was sentenced to 30 years in prison Thursday in the beating death of his wife, Karrie Lynn Bales.

“This sad case is an example of the cycle of domestic violence that we see too often in this office,” District Attorney Dave Young said. “It reflects the absolute importance of reporting crimes of domestic violence before they escalate to murder. Acts of violence such as this will not be tolerated, and the offenders be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”

“Karrie Bales’ death was the culmination of seven years of abuse at the hands of Robert Main,” Chief Deputy District Attorney Patrick Costigan said at the sentencing hearing in Adams County District Court. “She was quite literally beaten to death to Robert Main, a man twice her size.”

Bales, 33, was lying dead in her bed on July 7 when Federal Heights emergency responders arrived at their home at 2311 W. 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Main (DOB 08/20/81) gave several stories to police, saying that she had overdosed on alcohol and that she had tripped and fallen into a wall. A woman who also lived at the residence told police that Main violently pushed Bales to the floor and caused her head to strike the floor at least four times during their argument.

Bales had numerous injuries all over her body in various stages of healing, including five injuries to her face when she was killed, Costigan said. The medical examiner concluded her death was caused by a closed head injury to the back of her head which led to a subdermal hematoma and bruising on her brain and brain stem.

Main had a history of domestic violence fueled by alcohol. Previously, in August of 2016, Bales underwent surgery for a brain hemorrhage that nearly took her life caused by another beating by Main, Costigan said.

“Ms. Bales didn’t report that beating to authorities and that is the theme of this case,” Costigan said. “If she had reported what was happening to her, she would still be alive today.” Costigan said she was still recovering from brain surgery when family members saw she had another black eye at a family gathering on Father’s Day before the fatal beating.

“Despite numerous attempts by family, friends and neighbors to help her,” Costigan said, “she wanted to stay in this situation and ultimately it took her life. It’s tragic.”

Main pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in a plea agreement which called for a sentence of from 16 to 35 years. Costigan asked for the maximum sentence.

“You abused this lady for years, causing injuries that increased in severity,” Adams County District Judge Thomas Ensor said. “You had to know what you were doing to this person you profess to love.”

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