



NEWS RELEASE

October 10, 2018
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Walmart Shooter Scott Ostrem Pleads Guilty to 3 Counts of First-degree Murder

Scott Ostrem pleaded guilty to three counts of first-degree murder after deliberation and one count of attempted first-degree murder Wednesday in the shooting at a Walmart in Thornton last November 1 that left three people dead.

Ostrem (DOB 03/08/70) faces three life prison sentences without possibility of parole when he is sentenced at 1:30 p.m. October 19 in Division E of Adams County District Court.

Ostrem pleaded guilty to three counts of first-degree murder after deliberation (F1) and one count of attempted first-degree murder with extreme indifference (F2) naming 45 victims who were inside the Walmart located at 9901 Grant Street in Thornton when Ostrem walked into the store and opened fire. He also pleaded guilty to one count of crime of violence, a sentencing enhancer.

District Attorney Dave Young told the court that Ostrem pleaded guilty "to avoid the maximum penalty for first degree murder in Colorado of the death penalty."

Young said he was in the process of making the decision of whether to seek the death penalty and consulting with families when defense attorneys said Ostrem was willing to plead guilty to three counts of first-degree murder with a sentence of life in prison without parole. Young said he consulted with the families of the three murder victims as well as many of the other victims in making the decision to accept the plea.

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