



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced to 48 Years in Shooting Death of 19-year-old Woman

Joseph Michael Lopez pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 48 years in prison Monday in the shooting death of 19-year-old Natalie Bollinger last year.

Bollinger was reported missing on December 28. Her body was found in the 11600 block of Riverdale Road in Adams County on December 29 with a single gunshot wound to her head.

Lopez (06/06/95) told investigators that he shot her after responding to an ad she had placed on Craigslist looking for someone to kill her.

“Natalie Bollinger was a 19-year-old girl with her whole life ahead of her. The defendant was a predator,” Chief Deputy District Attorney Ally Baber said at the sentencing hearing. She said that when Lopez saw Bollinger’s post on Craigslist, he didn’t call 911 or ask for help for her. “He didn’t respond as a human being. He responded as a predator.” Baber said the two exchanged dozens of text message before he picked her up and then drove around for an extended period of time before he killed her.

“He had hours and hours of opportunity to do the right thing and save her life, but he chose to murder her,” Baber said.

Lopez was charged with first-degree murder after deliberation and pleaded guilty to second-degree murder with a maximum sentence of 48 years in prison, which Adams County District Judge Roberto Ramirez imposed.

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