



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for Shooting Death of Neighbor over Dog**

Michael Kourosh Sadeghi (DOB 11/17/85) was sentenced Monday to life in prison without parole for first-degree murder after deliberation in the shooting death of his neighbor, Dustin Schmidt, last year in Thornton.

Thornton police were dispatched to 4625 E. 106<sup>th</sup> Drive on March 27, 2018, on a report of shots fired. Schmidt, 42, was found shot in his back yard.

The shooting took place after a German-shepherd mix dog belonging to Schmidt's girlfriend jumped their back fence into the Sadeghi's yard. He was hanging by his leash when Schmidt pulled the dog back over the fence into his yard. Sadeghi confronted Schmidt and an argument ensued. Sadeghi shot Schmidt over the fence. Schmidt sustained four gunshot wounds and was pronounced dead on scene.

"The defendant's complete lack of remorse is astounding," Chief Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Fritts said at the sentencing hearing. "He keeps talking about how he's the victim and wrongly convicted. Dustin Schmidt was on the other side of the fence and was unarmed. The shooting took place after an argument this defendant began. He made the decision that day to murder Dustin Schmidt."

An Adams County District Court jury convicted Sadeghi after a trial last month. Adams County District Judge Sharon Holbrook imposed the mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole. "Clearly this is an event that changed everyone's life forever," she said.