



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Federal Heights Woman Sentenced to Life in Prison in Murder of Father**

Dayna Michele Jennings (DOB 12/01/73) was sentenced Monday to life in prison without parole plus 6 years for tampering with a deceased human body in the poisoning death of her 69-year-old father, whose decomposing body was found buried in a crawl space at the Federal Heights home they shared.

William Mussack, 69, was found buried in the crawl space in the basement of the home at 10022 Eliot Circle on January 10, 2018 by police and Colorado Bureau of Investigation officers executing a search warrant on the residence. His body was covered in debris and a layer of concrete.

Federal Heights police had made repeated efforts to do a welfare check on Mussack after relatives became concerned that they hadn't been able to contact him in December 2017. Mussack also had told his son that he fell asleep for 15 hours after Jennings gave him some food and a massage on December 7, 2017. Mussack told his son, "I keep telling her she must have drugged me."

An autopsy showed that Mussack had been poisoned by the animal tranquilizer acepromazine, a central nervous system depressant that slows body processes until the person stops breathing.

Evidence in the case showed that Jennings had been researching the effects of overdoses involving the acepromazine in December 2017, shortly before Mussack stopped communicating with his relatives on December 8, 2017. Jennings rented two dumpsters later that month and purchased bags of concrete from Home Depot, all the while maxing out her father's credit card.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Brett Martin told the jury during the trial: "Eleven days after her father was poisoned and buried in the crawl space, she texted, 'Life is so different now I feel so much better.'"

Chief Deputy District Attorney Rhoda Pilmer said, "Jennings repeatedly misled the family after they became concerned about Mussack, describing everyday routines as if things were fine. All the while, she was scheming about how to get rid of her father's body. She researched the drug, ordered it, received it. All of those were opportunities to stop and ask herself, 'Am I really going to poison my father?'"

After murdering her father, Jennings dragged her father's body to a crawl space and covered it with trash, household garbage and old photos before pouring concrete over him. "This is evidence of the contempt she felt for him," Pilmer told the court. "She tried to conceal his body hoping that no one would ever find it."

Adams County District Judge Don Quick sentenced Jennings to life in prison without parole for first-degree murder of Mussack plus 6 years for tampering with a deceased body.