



CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MURRIETA MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR MURDERING FORMER GIRLFRIEND

MURRIETA – A Murrieta man was sentenced today, April 23, 2010, to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the 2007 murder of his former girlfriend in her apartment.

Wade Griffin III, DOB: 9-4-68, was found guilty in March of first-degree murder and jurors also found true the special circumstances of lying in wait and murder during the commission of rape.

The morning of March 19, 2007, Murrieta police officers were called to an apartment on Mapleton Avenue where they found Griffin nude and lying on top of the victim, 34-year-old Ever Council. Griffin was unconscious and later found to have taken a large number of Vicodin and Soma pills he found in the victim's apartment in a failed suicide attempt.

The victim had broken off her relationship with Griffin several weeks earlier because of his violent and possessive behavior. When police found the victim the day of the murder, her face was severely beaten. The cause of death was determined to be strangulation and blunt force trauma.

Evidence obtained from Griffin's cellular phone showed that he was near the victim's apartment earlier that morning when he called both the victim and one of his friends. The friend told police that Griffin said he was going to wait outside her door to scare her and wouldn't leave until she apologized to him.

About 9:30 a.m. the day of Council's murder, her boyfriend at the time called her before she left for work and during their conversation she screamed and her cell phone went dead.

Griffin was sentenced by Judge Timothy F. Freer at the Southwest Justice Center in Murrieta.

The case, SWF020582, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Brandon Smith.

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