



Date: June 26, 2024

For Immediate Release
Kevin Croninger, Monroe County District Attorney
(608) 269-8780

Sparta Man Sentenced to 33 Years Prison for Reckless Homicide of His Girlfriend

[SPARTA, WI] Today, Monroe County District Attorney Kevin D. Croninger announced that on June 26, 2024, Monroe County Judge Todd Ziegler sentenced 34 year old, Shawn J. Hock to a 33 year term in the Wisconsin State prison system. After completing his 33 year term in the Wisconsin State Prison system, Hock will be supervised for an additional 20 years by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections.

Hock plead guilty to 1st Degree Reckless Homicide, Domestic Abuse, on the 2nd day of a jury trial in March of 2024. Hock claimed in a letter to the Court, that listening to the evidence presented by the State at trial convinced him (Hock) that he was guilty of the homicide. Hock's conviction stems from the homicide of his 32 year old girlfriend in May of 2022.

During sentencing District Attorney Croninger argued for a lengthy period of initial confinement and pointed out the extremely aggravated nature of Hock beating the victim to death. Croninger stated, "Shawn Hock beat the life out of the victim, in doing so he not only ended her life, but extinguished the light that she brought to so many people, there is no sentence which can adequately address such appalling conduct." Croninger also addressed the need for Hock to be confined so that the public would be protected "Shawn Hock is a coward, a liar, and a murderer, he must be confined for an extremely long period of time for the public to be protected." The mother of the victim asked for a prison sentence, but also asked the Court for leniency to the defendant, indicating that she did not want Mr. Hock to die in prison.

After sentencing Croninger stated, "We appreciate the sentence of Judge Ziegler today. Sentencing on any serious case is a difficult task, Judge Ziegler applied the law and handed down a sentence which appropriately addresses all factors a Judge must consider."

The prosecution of the case was handled by Monroe County District Attorney Kevin Croninger with support and assistance from Assistant District Attorney Charles Betthausen, Monroe County District Attorney's Office Paralegal Sara Kast, Victim Witness Professional Anje Schmitz, Investigator Andrew Kuen and other staff of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office.

The investigation of the case was led by the City of Sparta Police Department, including Deputy Chief Booker Ferguson and Lieutenant Jose Tovar. Croninger praised the work of the Sparta Police Department and all officers and agencies involved. "There were a lot of challenges for law enforcement in this case. Deputy Chief Ferguson and Lieutenant Tovar met those challenges and through their extremely professional and diligent hard work, a conviction was obtained. Without the commitment and professionalism of the entire Sparta Police Department, this outcome would not have been possible.



###