

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Michael Jackson
Fourth Judicial Circuit of Alabama
1001 Main Street, Suite 48
Greensboro, AL. 36744
Telephone (334) 624-1569; Facsimile (334) 624-0971

03/22/2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MOUNDEVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO TWENTY YEARS IN PRISON IN
MANSLAUGHTER CONVICTION**

On March 22, 2011, Michael Wayne Colburn, age 40, of Moundville, Alabama, entered a guilty plea to the charge of manslaughter, for having caused the death of Carlos Pursifull, of Moundville, Alabama, and was sentenced to twenty (20) years to serve in the custody of the Alabama Department of Corrections. Under Alabama Law, manslaughter is a class B felony and carries a range of punishment of two to twenty years in prison. Colburn was sentenced to the maximum under the law.

On May 2, 2005, E911 was notified that Carlos Pursifull had been found dead in his residence. Officers were dispatched to the residence of Carlos Pursifull in Moundville, Alabama, where they discovered Carlos Pursifull to be deceased in his residence. At the time of this report, now Hale County Sheriff Kenneth Ellis was the Chief of Police in the Town of Moundville. Sheriff Ellis, conducted the initial investigation into the death of Carlos Pursifull. An autopsy was performed on Carlos Pursifull with the results being that he suffered a traumatic head injury as a result of being beat about his head and face.

During the course of the investigation, several people were interviewed regarding what they may have seen at the Pursifull Residence on May 2, 2005. One of the individuals interviewed was the defendant, Michael Colburn. During his interview, it was discovered that he actually lived with Carlos Pursifull at the time and was home at the time of Pursifull's death. During his statement, Colburn stated that on May 2, 2005, he was playing cards with his son in a building behind the Pursifull residence when he heard a noise from inside the residence. He stated he did not think anything about the noise until he later went into the residence and discovered Carlos Pursifull lying on the floor in his bedroom bleeding. He stated he left to summon help, then returned and began CPR. At the time of the initial investigation there were no additional leads.

In January 2006, Chief Kenneth Ellis became the Hale County Sheriff. Over the last few years, Sheriff Ellis continued working on this case, when in late 2010, new leads were discovered in the case. Based upon the new leads, Sheriff Ellis along with the Alabama Bureau of Investigation was able to gather sufficient evidence to obtain an arrest warrant on Michael Colburn for causing the death of Carlos Pursifull. Michael Colburn was arrested on January 25, 2011.

During the guilty plea, Michael Colburn admitted to beating Carlos Pursifull with his fist ultimately causing the death of Carlos Pursifull. It is believed that the assault and ultimate death of Carlos Pursifull took place over a domestic dispute.

Assistant District Attorney, Timothy A. Evans prosecuted the case for District Attorney Michael Jackson. On behalf of the family of the victim and our office, we would like to extend appreciation to the Alabama Bureau of Investigation and to Hale County Sheriff Kenneth Ellis for their never ending search for the person responsible for the death of Carlos Pursifull.