

OFFICE OF DAKOTA COUNTY ATTORNEY
JAMES C. BACKSTROM
COUNTY ATTORNEY



Dakota County Judicial Center
1560 Highway 55
Hastings, Minnesota 55033-2392
Phillip D. Prokopowicz, Chief Deputy
Jay R. Stassen, First Assistant
Monica Jensen, Community Relations Director

Telephone
(651) 438-4438
FAX: (651) 438-4479 (Civil Division)
FAX: (651) 438-4500 (Criminal Division)
FAX: (651) 438-4499 (Admin Division)
E-mail: attorney@co.dakota.mn.us

May 9, 2019

NEWS RELEASE

**MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN CASE INVOLVING DEATH OF HIS GIRLFRIEND
IN BURNSVILLE AND IS SENTENCED**

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom announced that **Uriah David Schulz**, age 41, currently residing in Apple Valley, pled guilty today to Manslaughter in the First Degree in connection with the death of his girlfriend, 41-year-old Elizabeth Victoria Perrault of Burnsville, which occurred on or about November 1, 2017. Perrault's body was not located until April 22, 2018. Judge Tanya O'Brien sentenced Schulz to the statutory maximum of 15 years in prison. This is an aggravated upward departure of 70 months under the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines due to the concealment of the victim's body. Schulz has been in custody at the Dakota County jail since his arrest on September 10, 2018 and will now be transferred to state prison.

Elizabeth Perrault disappeared around November 1, 2017. At the time of her disappearance, Uriah Schulz was living with her in her Burnsville apartment. On February 22, 2018, two male friends of Perrault filed a missing person's report with the Burnsville Police Department concerning Perrault and expressed concerns regarding statements that had been made to one of them by Schulz.

On April 22, 2018, a fisherman called 911 and reported that he found what he believed to be a dead body while fishing near the I-35W bridge in Burnsville. Officers responded and located the dead body under the bridge in a small holding pond south of the Minnesota River. The body was badly decomposed and was found wearing a bathrobe and wrapped in a blanket, which was bound with two cords around the body's lower legs.

Using dental records, the Hennepin County Medical Examiner (ME) identified the body as Elizabeth Perrault. The ME determined that Perrault died by a homicide of unspecified means. Blunt force trauma was found on the right side of Perrault's face, with bone fractures around her eye and cheek. Due to the state of decomposition of Perrault's body, no blood was present.

The Burnsville police investigation revealed that the blanket Perrault's body was wrapped in when found came from her Burnsville apartment. Several puncture holes, six of which tested positive for the presence of blood, were found in an examination of the robe, which was covering Perrault's body when she was found. A search of Perrault's former apartment found a dark stain on and under the carpet in the master bedroom, which tested positive for blood. Also found through the use of blue luminescence was the shape of a human body on the floor of the bedroom, along with what appeared to be a footprint. When the carpet and carpet pad was removed, a large stain was found on the subflooring. Swabs were taken of this stain for DNA analysis. Police also conducted a search of the car Schulz was driving around the time of Perrault's disappearance. When

sprayed with chemicals used to detect the presence of blood, luminesce revealed a stain in the carpet liner of the trunk, which tested positive for blood.

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Schulz initially denied doing anything to Perrault and said that she was alive the last time he saw her. However, today in court, Schulz admitted that he and Perrault had been fighting, that he blacked out and found her body when he awoke. He acknowledged wrapping her body in a blanket and that he brought her body to the area where it was found near the Minnesota River.

Additional facts pertaining to this case can be found in the criminal complaint can be found at [Criminal Complaint Search](#). If in custody, a mug shot can be viewed at [Inmate Search](#). Prior news releases are available at [County Attorney News Releases](#).

Backstrom commented: *“We are pleased to have brought this defendant to justice for this violent crime. On behalf of everyone involved in the investigation and prosecution of this case, I wish to express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Elizabeth Perrault for their great loss.”*

Backstrom praised Assistant County Attorneys Kathy Keena and Cassandra Shepherd, who prosecuted the case. Backstrom thanked the Burnsville Police Department for their thorough investigation into this difficult case. Backstrom also thanked the Dakota County Sheriff’s Office, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the Hennepin County Medical Examiner’s Office for their assistance.

If you have questions, contact James Backstrom at 651-438-4440.