



OFFICE OF STATE ATTORNEY  
GINGER BOWDEN MADDEN  
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

December 14, 2021

**PRESS RELEASE**

Ginger Bowden Madden, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit, announces that on December 10, 2021, after an Okaloosa County jury found Justin McDougald guilty of First Degree Murder, Circuit Court Judge William F. Stone sentenced the Defendant to life in Florida's Department of Corrections.

In May 2017, Okaloosa County Sheriff deputies responded to a shooting in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Upon arriving on scene, deputies observed the victim, Davonte Williams, had been shot approximately eight times. On May 13, 2017, the Victim died from his injuries. Prior to his death, the Victim told law enforcement that two black males were responsible for his injuries and further identified one of the males as the co-Defendant, Jaurice Williams.

During the investigation, law enforcement located video footage of the Defendant brandishing a firearm and upon making a traffic stop on a vehicle occupied by the Defendant, Defuniak Springs Police Department officers located the murder weapon.

This case was originally set for trial in March 2020, however, was suspended by the Florida Supreme Court due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Cassie Reed, the prosecuting attorney, was thankful for the family's patience during the pandemic and stated she was "pleased with the jury's verdict and hoped this started the healing process for the family."

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office was responsible for the investigation and arrest. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement analyzed several items of evidence and provided expert testimony at trial. Assistant State Attorney Cassie Reed prosecuted this case. For further information, please contact Ms. Reed at: (850) 651-7260.