



*Douglas County
District Attorney*
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Defendant Found Guilty of Murder

On January 26, 2024, a Douglas County jury returned a guilty verdict convicting Malik Mason of two counts of felony murder, aggravated assault, cruelty to children in the third degree, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, and possession of firearm by first offender probationer. Superior Court Judge Cynthia Adams presided over the trial. The prosecution was led by Senior Assistant District Attorney Tornear'e Wiggins and Assistant District Attorneys Judith Grant and Elizabeth Shively. The Douglasville Police Department investigated the case with Andre Futch as the lead detective.

On November 6, 2020, law enforcement responded to a call of a person being shot. When officers arrived, they found the victim on the ground bleeding and suffering from a single gunshot wound to his neck. Emergency medical workers responded but were unable to save the victim.

Witnesses began to tell officers what happened. Malik Mason knew the victim. Mason and his girlfriend arrived at the scene a few minutes prior to the shooting and began speaking with the victim in the parking lot of an apartment complex. The conversation became heated between Mason's girlfriend and the victim over a social media post that had identified Mason as "a rat", claiming he was an informant for law enforcement. As things escalated verbally, Mason shot the victim, who was unarmed, in the neck. Mason fired his weapon knowing that there was a minor child present. After shooting the victim, Mason ran back to his vehicle and fled the scene. Multiple witnesses identified Mason and testified to seeing Mason shoot the victim. Several days later, law enforcement received information leading to Mason's arrest and apprehension in Alabama. During his sentencing, Mason described the victim as his best friend, but he took no responsibility for his actions or the events that led to the victim's death.

Douglas County District Attorney Dalia Racine stated, "It's difficult to understand how two young men who were friends would let a social media post lead to the murder of one. Too often we see people mistake the recklessness of the virtual world for the permanence of consequences in the real world. Unfortunately, the wake-up call, like in this case, can be disastrous and devastating to our families and our communities."

After hearing all of the evidence and testimony, the jury returned a verdict of guilty convicting Malik Mason of two counts of felony murder, aggravated assault, cruelty to children in the third degree, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, and possession of firearm by first offender probationer. Superior Court Judge Cynthia Adams sentenced Mason to life in prison plus sixteen years.