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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Two found guilty of multiple counts of Criminal Neglect of an Elderly Person**

Kendall County State's Attorney Eric Weis announced that Jennifer Ashton (02/03/1975) and Craig Ashton (dob: 02/12/1975) formerly of Montgomery, Illinois were both found guilty of eight counts of Criminal Neglect of an Elderly Person by the Honorable Robert Pilmer after a Bench Trial early last week.

According to Weis, members of the Kendall County Sheriff's Office responded to the Ashtons' residence in the Boulder Hill subdivision a week after the Thanksgiving Holiday, back in December of 2016. What they would find there, according to one deputy, was one of the worst scenes he had witnessed at that point of his career. The victim, P. B., who was Jennifer Ashton's mother, was deceased. After an autopsy was performed, the forensic pathologist would make findings that P.B., who was 66 years old when she passed, weighed approximately 65 pounds, and had 20 separate areas on her body showing skin lesions. P.B. had two separate lesions, one on her shoulder and one on her upper leg, which were down to the bone. Photographs of these lesions and the living conditions that P.B. was subjected to were produced at trial. Additionally, testimony from medical professionals and members of Senior Services showed that services were offered to try and provide assistance but were turned away or ignored by the Ashtons.

Weis commented, "Thanks to a strong investigation by the Kendall County Sheriff's Office and their experienced staff of detectives, and our experienced prosecutors, the Ashtons, P.B.'s caregivers, were finally held responsible for her death."

The matter will proceed to a sentencing hearing on December 1, 2023, which will be almost 7 years to the day that P.B. passed. The cases have been pending in the court system due to Covid-19 as well as the death of the Ashtons' first attorney. The case was prosecuted by both Criminal Chief Frank Gorup, and Assistant State's Attorney Ryan Phelps. The Ashtons were represented by Attorney Liam Dixon.