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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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William Smithson Sentence to Life Plus 94 Months Imprisonment

Media, PA – Today, Delaware County Common Pleas Court Judge Barry Dozor imposed formal sentence on William Smithson for the 2006 strangulation death of Jason Shephard. On November 21, 2008, a jury convicted Smithson of First Degree Murder, Aggravated Assault, Criminal Attempt Rape, Kidnapping, Unauthorized Administration of Intoxicants, Tampering with Evidence, Abuse of a Corpse, Possession of a Controlled Substance, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. The same jury returned a sentencing verdict for First Degree Murder of life imprisonment without parole on November 24, 2008.

Smithson was sentenced on each charge as follows: First Degree Murder, Life Imprisonment without parole; Aggravated Assault, merger for sentencing purposes with First Degree Murder; Criminal Attempt Rape, 48 – 96 months State Correctional Institute (SCI) consecutive to the life sentence; Kidnapping, 36 – 72 months SCI consecutive to the attempt rape sentence; Unauthorized Administration of Intoxicants, 16 – 32 months SCI consecutive to the kidnapping sentence; Abuse of a Corpse, 4 – 23 months consecutive to the administration of intoxicants sentence; Possession of a Controlled Substance, 1 – 12 months concurrent to the life sentence; Tampering with Evidence, 1 year probation consecutive to Abuse of a Corpse sentence; and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, 1 year probation consecutive to the Tampering with Evidence sentence.

Smithson's aggregate sentence is Life Imprisonment without parole plus 94 - 188 months in a State Correctional Institute followed by 2 years probation.

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