



Contact:

ADA Jessica Escue

Phone: 979-361-4320

Twitter:
@BrazosCountyDA

Email:
jescue@brazoscountytexas.gov

Press Release

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Man Pleads Guilty to Murder in Death of Mother

Bryan, TX - Phillip Ortega, 49, pled guilty to the April 4, 2013 murder of his mother, Velma Bryant, today. Following his plea, Ortega was sentenced to 45 years in prison by 272nd District Judge Travis Bryan III.

Velma Bryant was found dead in her home on April 6, 2013 by her daughter, who called the police. The subsequent Bryan Police Department investigation revealed that Bryant's car, television and microwave were missing.

Bryant's son, the Defendant, a known drug user, was identified as the last person seen at Bryant's home prior to her death.

Approximately two weeks later, on April 17, 2013, Ortega was arrested by Conroe Police Department in connection with an unrelated theft. During questioning, Ortega admitted to killing his mother.

Ortega had previously been convicted of Possession of a Controlled Substance, Theft, and Forgery.



Phillip Ortega

Assistant District Attorney Kara Comte prosecuted the case on behalf of the State of Texas.

“The loss of a parent is unimaginable. The remaining family’s wishes were the major consideration in the defendant’s punishment. The family was in agreement with this outcome. - Kara Comte, Assistant District Attorney