



ELLIS COUNTY & DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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Ennis Capital Murderer Convicted and Sentenced to Life without Parole

Ellis County and District Attorney Ann Montgomery announced that Dontriel Alexae Perry, 24, of Ennis, Texas, was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole on June 23, 2023.

On December 4, 2020, at about 7:40 p.m., Caleb Clark, Rodney Dent, and a third man were seated in a parked car in front of their grandmother's home in Ennis. A white SUV drove by, and the killers shot multiple rounds into the parked car. Caleb Clark and Rodney Dent were both killed—each man sustaining thirteen gunshot wounds. Hours before on the same day as the shooting, two witnesses observed Perry loading firearms with another suspect, and Perry stated he was “going to take care of business”. Both Perry and the other suspect were angry. Police investigation showed that Clark started seeing Perry's ex-girlfriend weeks before the murders, which caused a rift between the two men who had been friends. About an hour prior to the shooting, a surviving witness saw Perry drive by and angrily yell out of the passenger's window of the white SUV. Later in an interview with police, Perry admitted to handling a firearm (the same caliber that was used in the shooting) and riding in the SUV past the house where the shooting took place. He denied being a party to the murders.

The jury returned a guilty verdict for capital murder. As required by law, Judge Cindy Ermatinger of the 443rd District Court sentenced Perry to life in prison without parole.

“This was a heinous crime that shocked the conscience of the community of Ennis and Ellis County,” declared Montgomery. “I pray that this verdict provides some comfort and peace to the victims' families of this senseless and cruel act of violence.”

First Assistant County and District Attorney Cynthia Walker and Assistant County and District Attorney Garrett Smith tried the case, assisted by Investigator Joe Aguilar and Victims Assistance Coordinator Jamie Morales. The case was investigated by lead investigator Detective Sgt. Jason York of the Ennis Police Department. The Waxahachie Police Department also provided support during the initial investigation.

