



DenverDA

Mitchell R. Morrissey, District Attorney - Second Judicial District
201 W. Colfax Avenue, Dept. 801, Denver, CO 80202

Bus. Phone: 720-913-9000
Fax: 720-913-9035

NEWS RELEASE

November 25, 2008

Contact: Lynn Kimbrough, 720-913-9025

GUILTY PLEA IN '05 MURDER

A man accused of murdering a 57-year-old woman in her apartment in 2005 has pleaded guilty in the case and has been sentenced today.

Gerald Cooper (09-12-60) pleaded guilty to second-degree murder (F2) in the death of Carol Colaiano and was sentenced to the maximum of 48 years in the Department of Corrections.

Colaiano, who was disabled, was found dead on July 11, 2005 in her apartment at 1255 Galapago Street by an aide. At the time of the original investigation, authorities believed that she had been sexually assaulted before being brutally beaten with pieces of broken pottery and stabbed numerous times with a pair of scissors. Her murder was unsolved at the time.

Seven months later in February 2006, another resident in the same apartment building was attacked and sexually assaulted. She was able to escape and report the crime and her assailant was identified as Cooper, a man who lived in the building. Cooper later pleaded guilty to assault in that case and was sentenced to the Department of Corrections where he was required to provide a sample of his DNA to the CODIS databank.

Cooper was later identified as a suspect in Colaiano's murder when his DNA matched a mixture of his and the victim's blood found in her apartment.

The result of the guilty plea and sentence is that Cooper will be in his mid-80s before being eligible for release from prison.