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## ***NEWS RELEASE –***

February 3, 2017

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### **MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN DEATH OF WIFE**

A man charged with first degree murder in the April 2014 shooting death of his wife Kristine Ann Kirk inside their home in the 2100 block of South St. Paul Street pleaded guilty today to one count of *murder in the second degree* (F2).

**Richard Kirk** (dob: 05-15-66) faces a sentence to the Department of Corrections for a definite term of between 25 and 30 years, a fine of between \$5,000 and \$1,000,000, and a mandatory five-year period of parole upon release from prison under the terms of the plea agreement. Additionally, Kirk agreed to the adoption of Kristine's and Richard's three minor children by maternal grandparents Marti and Wayne Kohnke. The first degree murder charge was dismissed and the second degree murder charge was added in connection with the plea.

The family of Kristine and her children authorized the district attorney's office to issue the following statement: "We miss Kris every day. We are grateful that this case has been resolved to save us all from the stress of a trial. Thank you to everyone who has supported us through this, the most difficult time of our lives."

Denver District Attorney Beth McCann commented on the disposition of the case: "All involved feel this is a fair resolution of a very complicated, tragic case. The family did not want the case to go to trial given the personal and emotional toll family members have already suffered. Mr. Kirk has accepted responsibility for the murder of his wife and the range of sentence possibilities will allow the judge and the public to hear any facts in mitigation and aggravation of the situation."

Mr. Kirk will be sentenced at a later court date. Deputy District Attorney Jon Long and Chief Deputy District Attorney Helen Morgan prosecuted the case and negotiated the plea.