

Office of the State Attorney
Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida
www.sao4th.com



MELISSA W. NELSON
STATE ATTORNEY

311 West Monroe Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202-4242
TEL: (904) 255-2500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David Chapman

Phone: (904) 255-3004

Cell: (904) 524-6626

ChapmanD@coj.net

March 29, 2022

STEWART PLEADS GUILTY TO SECOND-DEGREE MURDER OF WIFE

State Attorney Melissa Nelson announces that Gerard Stewart has pleaded guilty to Second-Degree Murder in the 2018 killing of his wife, Julie Ann Stewart. A jury previously found Stewart guilty of Tampering with Evidence associated with the same crime. With the plea, Stewart now faces up to life Florida State Prison. The Honorable London Kite will schedule a sentencing hearing at a later date.

On June 15, 2018, Stewart's neighbor called the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office stating Stewart told him he had killed his own wife and placed her body in the trunk of his car. Law enforcement and first responders arrived at the scene where Stewart pulled his car out of the garage, exited the vehicle, and went inside his home. Stewart was arrested and told officers he killed his wife by stabbing her two- to three times, but an autopsy revealed 13 wounds, including her throat being cut. Stewart told officers his wife told him she was going to take everything, including their son, from him in their upcoming divorce. He then told them that after killing his wife, he wrapped her inside trash bags secured with tape and placed her in the trunk of his vehicle. The investigation revealed text messages that showed Stewart knew of his wife's plans several days before the crime.

The case was investigated by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and prosecuted by Assistant State Attorneys Ashley Terry, Cameron French, and Jennifer Braunstein.