

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

June 12, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR (interim): Emily Chisholm

Monroe County District Attorney's Office

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Walter Tyler Morse Pleads to Manslaughter in the 2nd Degree and Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree

Rochester, NY- On Tuesday, June 12, 2018, 31-year-old Walter Tyler Morse pled guilty to Manslaughter in the 2nd degree for the death of 10-year-old J'Vieon Grayson-Sutton. Morse also pled guilty to Attempted Murder in the 2nd degree for the shooting of 35 year old Michael Coles; and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd degree resulting from a search warrant executed on November 9, 2017.

Morse admitted to recklessly causing the death of his 10-year old stepson. On June 12, 2017 he was charged with caring for his 6 year old son and 10 year old stepson. Morse left the children unattended for several hours, during which J'Vieon ingested furanyl fentanyl, which had been left in the apartment by Morse. The ingestion of the powder resulted in J'Vieon's overdose and subsequent death on June 13, 2017. On October 19, 2017, Morse fired several gunshots at Michael Coles, J'Vieon's biological father, on Borchard Street, in the City of Rochester. Coles was shot three times and was hospitalized as a result. On November 9, 2017, members of the Greater Rochester Narcotics Enforcement team (GRANET) executed a search warrant at Morse's residence at 36 Fitch Street in Churchville. They located a quantity of cocaine and paraphernalia evincing Morse's intent to sell the cocaine.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sara VanStrydonck, Chief of the Child Abuse Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Matthew Schwartz, Chief of the Special Investigation Bureau.

“This case epitomizes the dangers of the opioid epidemic. These dangerous drugs have no place in our community and certainly should never be left close to our most vulnerable citizens- our children,” said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “Let this plea and sentence send a message to those dealing these perilous drugs: my office and all of law enforcement will not tolerate the unnecessary and tragic deaths of victims like J'Vieon- you will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. This conviction would not be possible without the thorough investigation and collaborative efforts of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and the Rochester Police Department.”

Walter Tyler Morse will be sentenced on July 24, 2018, in front of County Court Judge John L. DeMarco. Morse is expected to be sentenced to 7 ½ - 15 years NYS Department of Corrections, the maximum sentence allowed for Manslaughter in the Second Degree. He is also expected to receive concurrent sentences of ten (10) years and two (2) years NYS Department of Corrections.

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