



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CARMEN G. STONEMARK, DE SOTO, INDICTED FOR FIRST DEGREE MURDER OF FRANK STONEMARK

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney announced today the return of a five count Indictment relating to the death of Frank Stonemark, 76, of DeSoto, Illinois. Carmen G. Stonemark, age 54, also of DeSoto, has been indicted by a Grand Jury for the October 29, 2017, murder of her husband, Frank Stonemark. She is currently in custody at the Jackson County Jail with bond set at \$2.5 million.

The Indictment alleges that Carmen Stonemark, before the commission of the offense of First Degree Murder and with the intent to promote or facilitate the commission of the offense of First Degree Murder, knowingly solicited James Michael Deese in in the commission of the offense of First Degree Murder.

Carmen Stonemark was also indicted for two counts of Solicitation of Murder, which are Class X Felonies, in that with the intent that the offense of First Degree Murder be committed, she requested James Michael Deese to commit that offense. The Indictment also charges Carmen Stonemark with Concealment of a Homicidal Death, a Class 3 Felony, in that she, or one for whose conduct she is legally responsible, knowingly concealed the death of Frank Stonemark with knowledge that he had died by homicidal means; and with Concealment of Death, a Class 4 Felony, in that she, or one for whose conduct she is legally responsible knowing moved the body of Frank Stonemark, a dead person, from the place of his death with the intent of concealing information.

If convicted of First Degree Murder as alleged in Count 1, the sentence which must be imposed is a sentence of 20 to 60 years' imprisonment. Probation is not authorized and there is no early release program available. Solicitation of Murder carries a maximum sentence of 15-30

years' imprisonment and is not probation eligible. Concealment of a Homicidal Death is a Class 3 Felony which carries potentially a sentence of 2-5 years' imprisonment. Concealment of 1 Death is a Class 3 Felony which carries a potential sentence of 1-3 years' imprisonment.

On July 9, 2018, Deese pled guilty to killing Stonemark by strangling him and choking him on October 29, 2017. He is awaiting sentencing.

An Indictment is merely a charge and not evidence. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The investigation is being pursued by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office and is ongoing. Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact the Jackson County Sheriff's Office. State's Attorney Michael Carr is handling the prosecution.

*A prosecutor has the responsibility of a minister of justice and not simply that of an advocate. This responsibility carries with it specific obligations to see that the defendant is accorded procedural justice and that guilt is decided upon the basis of sufficient evidence. Except for statements that are necessary to inform the public of the nature and extent of the prosecutor's action and that serve a legitimate law enforcement purpose, by Supreme Court Rule, the State's Attorney is not allowed to make statements about pending cases or investigations which would pose a serious and imminent threat to the fairness of the proceeding. **Rule 3.8 Special Responsibilities of a Prosecutor.** For a list of certain subjects which have been determined to pose such a threat to the fairness of the proceedings and for a list of subjects which do not, please see **Rule 3.6 Trial Publicity.** For any press release involving a case which has not yet been tried, please note that: **a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of the jury.***