



# JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **KEITH R. RITCHESON, MURPHYSBORO, SENTENCED TO NATURAL LIFE FOR FIRST DEGREE MURDER**

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that Keith R. Ritcheson, age 41, of Murphysboro, Illinois, was sentenced to natural life in prison for the August 14, 2017, murders of his father and mother, Burl and Brenda Ritcheson, both of Murphysboro.

The evidence at trial showed that during the early morning hours of August 14, 2017, the Jackson County Sheriff's Office received a 9-1-1 call from Keith Ritcheson advising that he returned home and discovered both of his parents deceased. Upon arrival at the Ritcheson home, deputies located the two victims inside the residence, both dead from gunshot wounds.

Ritcheson initially reported that he lived at the residence with his parents and had left for a brief period to go to a convenience store. Upon his return, he found the garage door open and both parents deceased. As the investigation developed, the theory provided by the defendant conflicted with the evidence. When confronted by investigators, the defendant changed his story and ultimately admitted that he shot his father, but claimed his father shot his mother. He was found guilty following a three-day bench trial held in September 2018.

Because Ritcheson was convicted of First-Degree Murder of more than one victim, a mandatory prison sentence of natural life was imposed.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office. State's Attorney Michael C. Carr and former Assistant State's Attorney Casey E.A. Bloodworth were responsible for the prosecution of this case.