



## **Inmate Pleads Guilty to Aggravated Murder of Cellmate**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 30, 2017**

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Casey Pigge, 29, pled guilty today to aggravated murder in connection with the February 23, 2016 death of Luther Wade, 26, of Springfield, Ohio. Pigge and Wade were cellmates at Lebanon Correctional Institution in Turtlecreek Township at the time of the incident.

On February 22, 2016, Wade, who was serving a 10 year prison sentence for aggravated burglary, was transferred to a cell with Pigge. The next day, Wade was found in the cell face down on his bed with a large amount of blood beneath him. He was transferred to Atrium Medical Center where he was pronounced dead.

Upon further investigation, Pigge told investigators that he offered to show Wade a card trick where he covered Wade's eyes with a blindfold. Pigge then took a cinder block he had taken from the cell wall and struck Wade multiple times in the head. Pigge stated that Wade "would not die so I picked up the brick and hit him again, hit him again, he wouldn't die." Pigge said he then stopped for a moment but Wade was still making noise, so he struck Wade in the head with the cinder block again. Pigge waited until after Wade was deceased before he informed a corrections officer of what he had done.

Pigge will be sentenced next month in front of Common Pleas Court Judge Donald Oda. The parties have agreed to a sentence of life without the possibility of parole. Pigge is currently incarcerated at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility at Lucasville serving a sentence of 30 years to life for aggravated murder from a 2009 conviction in Ross County, Ohio.

"Because of his prior conviction for aggravated murder, our office would typically have sought the death penalty under these circumstances. However, despite his ability to pre-meditate and carry out this brutal murder, the Supreme Court has held that someone with the defendant's IQ is ineligible for the death penalty. Therefore, we sought and obtained the highest sentence available to us under the law—life without the possibility of parole," said Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell.

Fornshell commended Trooper Joseph Griffith of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Assistant Prosecutor Derek Faulkner, Assistant Prosecutor Karl Harris, Assistant Prosecutor Steve Knippen, Director of Victim Witness Services Jessi Flint, and Legal Assistant Brenda Berry for their work on the case.



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