

# **Former Lebanon Correctional Institution Inmate Convicted of Aggravated Murder, Faces Death Penalty**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Earlier today, a Warren County jury convicted Jack D. Welninski, 34, of aggravated murder for the April 23, 2018 killing of Kevin Nill. The jury also found Welninski guilty of a capital specification for committing a murder while under detention at a state correctional institution. Additionally, Warren County Common Pleas Court Judge Donald E. Oda II found Welninski guilty of two separate specifications that were tried directly to the court instead of to the jury. Specifically, Judge Oda convicted Welninski of an additional capital specification of committing the offense of aggravated murder of Nill after having previously been convicted of the purposeful attempt to kill another, and a separate non-capital specification of being a repeat violent offender.

Because of the findings of guilt on the two capital specifications, the same Warren County jury will proceed to the penalty phase of the trial on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at which time they will consider sentencing recommendations of death, life without parole, 30 years to life, or 25 years to life. Welninski is already serving 69 years in prison for the December 18, 2015 attempted murder of Oregon (OH) Police Department Officer Tim Stecker.

On April 23, 2018, Welninski and Nill were briefly cellmates in a restricted housing block at Lebanon Correctional Institution. Welninski strangled Nill to death, in part, because Welninski believed doing so would result in his transfer to another prison. There was no prior history between Welninski and Nill, and Welninski killed Nill a little over an hour after becoming cellmates. Welninski confessed to Nill's murder, and his motive for doing so, in an interview with law enforcement, characterizing the entire plan as "premeditated".

Welninski is currently incarcerated at the Ohio State Penitentiary in Youngstown, Ohio.



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