



## OFFICE OF THE SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ATTORNEY

MARK S. RUBIN COUNTY ATTORNEY

### NEWS RELEASE

October 24, 2016

**CONTACT:** Mark Stodghill, County Attorney's Office  
St. Louis County Courthouse  
Duluth, MN 218-726-2323

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## Court dismisses murder charge in cold case

On October 5, 1987, the body of 83-year-old Leona Mary Maslowski was found in her Virginia home. An autopsy revealed that she died from stab wounds, multiple blunt wounds to the head, and strangulation. In June 2016, Bruce Wayne Cameron, 45, was charged with second-degree murder in connection with her death.

Over the years, forensic tests continued to be conducted on evidence obtained at the murder scene. Cameron's palm print and fingerprints were ultimately identified on a bedroom door next to where the victim's body was found.

The defendant was interviewed by law enforcement investigators in April 2015. He denied any involvement in the murder but in a subsequent interview -- less than two months later -- he admitted being in the residence looking for alcohol and eventually admitted to his role in her death, resulting in Cameron being charged.

At an omnibus hearing on July 28, 2016, defense attorneys moved to suppress the statements made by Cameron alleging the statements were the result of inducements which negated the requisite voluntariness to be admissible at trial. The St. Louis County Attorney's Office argued and submitted briefs suggesting the court should deny the defense motion and find that the statements made were voluntary. In an order dated October 21, 2016, Judge David Ackerson determined that the statements made by the defendant were not sufficiently voluntary and, therefore, would not be admissible at trial. The court then ruled that without the statements the State no longer had probable cause to proceed and dismissed the charges against Cameron.

A copy of the judge's order is attached to this news release.

Gary Bjorklund, head of the St. Louis County Attorney's Office criminal division in Duluth, said: "We reviewed Judge Ackerson's order suppressing Cameron's statement and dismissing the charges for lack of probable cause. Obviously, we are disappointed with the decision. However, it is obvious that the judge put a great deal of thought into the order. The investigation into the death of Leona Mary Maslowski remains open."

###