



OFFICE OF THE SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ATTORNEY

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

First-degree murder indictment sought

The St. Louis County Attorney's Office on Tuesday will charge Jesse Alan Dahlstrom with premeditated first-degree murder in the stabbing death of Sally Marie Pionk.

Dahlstrom, 35 of Duluth, will be arraigned in State District Court in Duluth. The case also has to be presented to a St. Louis County grand jury for a first-degree murder indictment as required by law. Assistant St. Louis County Attorney Rebekka Stumme has been assigned to prosecute the case.

Dahlstrom was arrested by Duluth police about 8 p.m. Thursday at the Super One grocery store, 5300 Bristol Street, where the stabbing took place. Store employees detained the defendant until police arrived.

"Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Sally Marie Pionk," St. Louis County Attorney Mark Rubin said. "This is an absolute tragedy. Homicide never makes sense. We will do our best to hold the offender accountable and seek justice in this case."

Rubin said if there is a challenge by the defense to the mental competency of the defendant, the law requires that all criminal proceedings be suspended until the defendant is evaluated.

"If the court orders a mental competency evaluation, we will be requesting that the defendant be transferred to the Minnesota Security Hospital at St. Peter for the duration of the evaluation," Rubin said.

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