



## OFFICE OF THE SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ATTORNEY

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### NEWS RELEASE

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### Second person sentenced for role in Hillside slaying

A Duluth woman was sentenced today to 130 months in prison for her role in the stabbing death of a Hillside landlord.

Joella Lee Tucker, 32, pleaded guilty in March to an amended charge of aiding and abetting second-degree murder in connection with the Dec. 21, 2012 slaying of Kevin Tyman. She had been charged with conspiracy to commit second-degree murder.

Sixth Judicial District Judge Mark Munger pronounced sentence this afternoon in State District Court in Duluth.

Tucker's co-defendant, Raymond Charles Weeks, 42, of Two Harbors was sentenced last week to 30 years in prison for stabbing Tyman to death. The 54-year-old victim died in a Duluth hospital on Dec. 21, 2012, hours after sustaining a single stab wound that lacerated his liver. Weeks pleaded guilty to intentional second-degree murder.

Tucker testified at her plea hearing that she saw Weeks stab Tyman in the abdomen. Her anticipated guideline sentence was 10 years, 10 months in prison, but the defense was allowed to argue for a shorter sentence as part of a plea agreement. Assistant St. Louis County Attorney Kristen E. Swanson argued to the court that Tucker receive nothing less than a guideline prison sentence.

In return for her guilty plea, Tucker's level of involvement in the matter was not presented to a grand jury for consideration of a more serious charge.

Both defendants were prosecuted by Swanson and Assistant St. Louis County Attorney Chris Pinkert.

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