



## OFFICE OF THE SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ATTORNEY

---

**MARK S. RUBIN** COUNTY ATTORNEY

### NEWS RELEASE

March 18, 2016

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## Third guilty plea entered in Iron Range slaying

A third person pleaded guilty today for his role in the death of an Iron Range man who was murdered at the request of the victim's girlfriend, St. Louis County Attorney Mark Rubin said.

John Edward Isham, 39, of Virginia pleaded guilty in State District Court to aiding an offender and obstructing an investigation in connection with the April 27, 2014 stabbing death of Harley Joseph Jacka, 28, of Virginia, whose body was found in a Virginia apartment.

Judge James Florey ordered a pre-sentence investigation of Isham's background before sentencing on April 22.

Janessa Lynn Peters, 21, of Eveleth pleaded guilty in November to second-degree murder for her role in the slaying of her boyfriend. Bartholamy Jake Drift, 41, of Virginia, also pleaded guilty to second-degree murder for his involvement in the crime.

Peters and Drift are awaiting sentencing. The fourth defendant, Anthony James Isham, 44, of Virginia -- a cousin of John Isham -- is charged with first-degree murder. He's scheduled to be in State District Court in Virginia on Tuesday for a pre-trial hearing.

###

