

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



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MEDIA RELEASE

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Portsmouth, VA

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ROCKY A. MUGYNEI, II. CONVICTED OF VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER AND CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

PORTSMOUTH, VA – After a four-day jury trial (September 26-29, 2022,) the defendant Rocky A. Mugynei, II., was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter and child abuse/neglect.

Based on legislative changes, post July 1, 2021, defendants have a right to select a jury sentencing or to be sentenced by the judge of the circuit court, who presided over the jury trial. In this instance, the defendant, Rocky A. Mugynei, II., opted to be sentenced by the judge of the circuit court, who presided over the jury trial.

The defendant will return for sentencing by the court on January 11, 2023. An update will be provided after sentencing. The trial team consisted of Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Haille Hogfeldt and Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Jessica Sherwood.

“We are proud to have fought for justice and been a voice on behalf of a victim who had his life cut short before he ever had a chance to grow up and find his own. We are grateful for the service of the jurors and applaud the verdict they rendered today. It is our privilege to serve the Portsmouth community in pursuit of justice and safety, particularly for our most vulnerable members.”

- ACA Haille Hogfeldt and ACA Jessica Sherwood

“My heart goes out to the grandmother and siblings of this innocent victim, who should still be with us today. Our office is grateful to the jurors who performed a vital service to our Portsmouth community this week. Our team works diligently to seek justice for victims of violent crime every single day and this week's efforts by ACAs Hogfeldt and Sherwood were no different. Our city is safer because of their service.”

- Stephanie N. Morales, Commonwealth's Attorney

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