

Newton man pleads guilty to murder

Special to the Sun-Courier

A 42-year-old Newton man plead guilty Monday to the Christmas Eve 2007 stabbing death of his wife.

According to the Dale County District Attorney's



**Darrin
Johnson**

Office, Darrin Keith Johnson admitted to Circuit Judge P.B. McLaughlin that on Dec. 24, 2007 he used a knife and stabbed Allison Fuller Johnson multiple times causing her death. At the time of the incident, the couple was married, but a divorce was pending.

McLaughlin accepted Johnson's plea, but withheld sentencing pending an investigation and a sentencing hearing to be set in about a month.

During Monday's hearing McLaughlin said the range of punishment for murder is 10 to 99 years, or life, but because Johnson used a deadly weapon a minimum sentence of 20 years could be imposed. Johnson may also be fined up to \$60,000.

"This was a heinous crime, but what made it even worse was that he committed this murder on Christmas Eve in front of their two children," District Attorney Kirke Adams said. "I understand that Johnson is pleading guilty and taking responsibility for his crime, but it doesn't change the fact that he took a life and the lives he affected by this violent murder."