

Man sentenced for manslaughter

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OZARK — An Ozark man who claimed he killed a woman in self defense last year was sentenced to serve 15 years in prison in relation to the woman's death.

According to court records, Dale County Circuit Judge P.B. McLauch-

lin denied split sentence and probation requests on Thursday from Ricky Stokes, 46, of Briarhill Court in Ozark, after Stokes pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

Ozark police initially charged Stokes with murder in May after he stabbed 51-year-old Cheryl Hinton to death with a broken beer bottle during

a domestic dispute.

Defense attorney Bill Kominos said there were questions concerning whether or not Stokes acted in self defense.

David Emery, Dale County district attorney supernumerary, said Stokes had more than 20 previous misdemeanor assault charges before he was charged with murder.