

Daleville



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 BOXHOLDER

Draugh to be sentenced next month in manslaughter case

By **Stephanie Scott**
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The sentencing hearing for Johnny Draugh, connected with the stabbing death of 47-year-old Ronald Miller, is expected to take place in the next three to four weeks, according to Dale County District Attorney Kirke Adams.

Last week, Draugh pleaded guilty to manslaughter during his murder trial and Dale

County Assistant District Attorney Bill Filmore said Draugh can be sentenced to anything from two to 20 years.

"We always want someone held responsible for what someone has done," said Adams.

Currently, the probation office is doing the investigation and will conduct a report for the judge that includes background information and recommendations for the judge to review, said Filmore.

The sentencing hearing is expected to last about an hour and the judge will announce how many years Draugh will spend in jail and the terms of probation, said Filmore.

The family of the victim has returned to Ohio and is expected to return to the sentencing hearing. Testimonies from the victim's family as well as the defendant's family will be allowed.

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"Maybe somebody from the victim's family will want to say something," said Filmore.

It was reported that the victim's family was made aware and agreed with the Draugh's manslaughter plea.

"It's not that they were okay with the plea and much would rather had a conviction of murder," said Filmore. "But

If it came down to a trial, they ran the risk of going to a self-defense verdict.

Reportedly the prosecutor intended to show Draugh went into his home to get a knife, after he and Miller argued, and therefore demonstrated "intent" to kill.

Allegedly from the beginning, the problem was proving the intent. According to

Filmore, both men were intoxicated. Blood and urine samples revealed alcohol levels for both men were documented as being between .21 and .28, said Adams.

Considering the alcohol levels, a murder conviction may have been difficult to achieve, Filmore said.

After Draugh pleaded guilty to manslaughter, Adams

said he spoke with many of the jurors who revealed they would have voted for manslaughter "without a doubt."

According to police reports, Draugh stabbed Miller in the chest with a kitchen knife after the two men got into an argument over a vehicle title.