

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WARE COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

STATE OF GEORGIA

ACCUSATION / INDICTMENT #: 04R-330

v.
SHEILA DENISE DENTON

COUNT 2: Felony Murder
COUNT 3: Giving False Information to Law Enforcement

JUDGMENT OF NOLLE PROSEQUI

For the below stated reason, the within and foregoing count(s) of the above Indictment or Accusation is / are hereby nol prossed as to the above-named defendant(s).

REASON FOR NOLLE PROSEQUI:

After a recent review of the case, trial transcript, and Extraordinary Motion for New Trial records by the State, the case stands as follows. After a jury trial in 2006, the Defendant was acquitted of Count 1 Malice Murder, but convicted of Count 2 Felony Murder and Count 3 Giving False Information to a Law Enforcement Officer. Her convictions were affirmed on direct appeal. The Defendant served the next 14 years in prison under a sentence of life in prison.

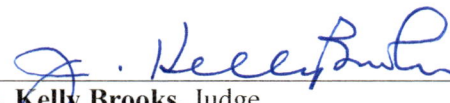
In 2017, the Defendant filed an Extraordinary Motion for New Trial based upon a recent change in the scientific community regarding bite mark evidence. That Motion was ultimately granted by the trial court in 2020. At that time, the case was not made ready for retrial and the then-District Attorney consented to release the Defendant on her own recognizance.

When the court granted the EMFNT, the court found that the bite mark evidence used by the State during the 2006 trial, while properly admitted in 2006, would not be admissible today due to further research and a change in the odontological community. The Defendant's and State's own experts agreed, and the court found that, at most an expert today could state that he could not rule out the victim as the source of the bite mark on the Defendant and that he could not even give the opinion that the injury to the victim was, in fact, a human bite mark.

Without this evidence, the only evidence linking this Defendant to the murder was the testimony of a single witness who testified that the Defendant admitted to the murder. However, a review of the trial transcript shows that this witness was effectively impeached at trial and had highly dubious credibility. The prosecutor at the time of trial conceded during closing argument that without the evidence of both bite marks, "I'd have to admit that's reasonable doubt." Furthermore, this admission by the Defendant would potentially be insufficient for a jury to convict pursuant to OCGA § 24-8-823 as the State has, to date, discovered no further corroborating evidence.

While the State believes there was and still is probable cause for the prosecution of the case, the State does not believe there is sufficient evidence likely to obtain a conviction beyond a reasonable doubt for Felony Murder. Furthermore, as the Defendant spent 14 years in prison, the State now declines to re prosecute the Defendant for the misdemeanor offense of Giving False Information to a Law Enforcement Officer in the interests of justice.

This 9th day of September, 2026.


J. Kelly Brooks, Judge
Superior Court of Ware County
Waycross Judicial Circuit


Ian Sansot, Chief Assistant District Attorney
Waycross Judicial Circuit

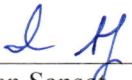
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Ian Sansot, Chief Assistant District Attorney for the Waycross Judicial Circuit, do hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing Nolle Prosequi on counsel for Defendant as follows:

Mark Loudon-Brown
60 Walton Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30303

by electronic service via PeachCourt.

This 9 day of September, 2026.



Ian Sansot
Chief Assistant District Attorney
Waycross Judicial Circuit

Does this Judgment of Nolle Prosequi qualify for record restriction?

- ☒ Yes, per O.C.G.A. 35-3-37 [900]
☐ No, pled to an offense arising out of the same underlying transaction as the conviction (O.C.G.A. 35-3-37(i)(A)) [300]
☐ No, material evidence barred on legal grounds, i.e., Motion to Suppress was granted (O.C.G.A. 35-3-37(i)(1)(B)) [300]
☐ No, prosecuted in another court, i.e., federal court (O.C.G.A. 35-3-37(i)(1)(C)) [300]
☐ No, defendant has diplomatic, consular, or similar immunity (O.C.G.A. 35-3-37(i)(1)(D)) [300]