

San Antonio Express-News
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Spouse gets 15 years for murder
Infidelity upset Bandera man

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Publication Date : June 14, 2001

The defendant's family cried in relief Wednesday, but anger flowed from some, as Paul E. Jackson Sr. received 15 years for the murder of his wife.

"I don't think it's quite fair," said Jim Dowda, 63, whose daughter, Brenda Lee Jackson, 31, was killed Feb. 16, 1999, after the defendant learned of her infidelity.

Paul Jackson faced a possible 99-year sentence for the crime to which he pleaded guilty Monday.

But after more than four hours of deliberation, the jury ruled that he had acted "under the immediate influence of sudden passion," a finding that reduced the maximum possible sentence to 20 years.

With credit for time served in the Bandera County Jail awaiting trial, the 15-year sentence means Jackson will likely be eligible for parole in five years.

Jackson, 34, testified that he was overcome with anger after discovering his wife's yearlong affair with his best friend, Monty Gobert, a neighbor in Bandera.

Upon hearing a tape he secretly made of phone calls between Gobert and his wife, several of which ended with "I love you," he confronted his wife of 14 years, chased her to Gobert's home and shot her nine times.

Defense attorney Pat Hancock pleaded with jurors for probation Wednesday, saying that Jackson "snapped" at learning he had been deceived by those he trusted.

But prosecutor Lucy Cavazos asked for a life sentence.

"Brenda didn't have the opportunity for probation," Cavazos said.

Jurors were hesitant to discuss their deliberations.

"We all agreed we'd say no comment," Jerry Tilley said.

Juror Lyle Sorensen said, "There's no more news in this family's tragedy," before hanging up the phone.

Deputies waited as Jackson's family, including his three children, sobbed and hugged their father over the courtroom railing as the emotionally draining trial ended.

Gobert's only presence in the courtroom this week was on tapes entered as evidence.

Reached for comment after the trial ended, Gobert said, "I ain't got no remarks on it."

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