



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
SEVENTH CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT  
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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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(Jackson, MS) Hinds County District Attorney Jody E. Owens II announces the conviction and sentencing of Clyde Hawkins on the charge of Second-Degree Murder. Hawkins, age 76, was sentenced to serve 25 years in prison.

On January 4, 2022, the body of 20-year-old Diamond Ducksworth Graham was discovered in the parking lot of the Economy Inn located at 3016 W. Northside Drive. During a canvas of the area, detectives with JPD's Robbery-Homicide Unit encountered Hawkins, a guest at the motel. Hawkins quickly came under suspicion and detectives took him into custody. Police subsequently recovered the murder weapon from Hawkins' vehicle as well as spent shell casings from his pockets. The forensic evidence showed that the victim was shot seven times as she fled naked from the motel room to escape Hawkins.

Hawkin's murder trial was set to begin today in Hinds County Circuit Court; however, faced with the overwhelming evidence of guilt, Hawkins changed his plea to guilty just prior to the start of the trial. Hawkins was sentenced to 30 years in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections with 5 years suspended, followed by 5 years of post-release supervision.

"I am proud of our team for achieving justice on behalf of Ms. Graham and her family. We put together a solid case which is reflected in this result." DA Owens said following the sentencing. "We are seeing an unfortunate number of defendants who refuse to consider plea offers only to change their mind when presented with the State's case."

In 2023, 38% of defendants brought to trial changed their plea to guilty after the start of trial but prior to the case going to the jury.

The indictment in this matter is public record and attached hereto.

JODY E. OWENS, II  
HINDS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY