



**OFFICE OF THE  
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CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 30, 2026**

**DELAWARE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO SECOND-DEGREE MURDER  
AND SENTENCED TO SERVE 50 YEARS IN PRISON**

**ELKTON** – On June 25, 2026, Mikal Djuan Keller, 40 years old, pled guilty to Murder-Second Degree and using a firearm during the commission of a violent felony for the 2022 murder of John Benjamin Dorsey, Jr. in Elkton. After entering into the plea agreement, Keller was sentenced to the maximum sentence of forty years for Murder-Second Degree and the maximum sentence of twenty years for the firearm charge. The plea, which was negotiated by Deputy State's Attorney Patricia B. Fitzgerald and Assistant State's Attorney E. Ellis Rollins with Keller's defense counsel, included a ten-year suspension of the sixty-year total. Keller will serve fifty years. The plea was a binding plea, which means the sentence had already been agreed upon by all parties prior to the hearing on June 25, 2026.

On August 17, 2022, officers with the Elkton Police Department responded to the neighborhood of Rudy Park in Elkton, where they located Dorsey, who had suffered a single, fatal gunshot wound to the head. Detectives determined through interviews the shooter was Keller, who was the ex-boyfriend of Dorsey's girlfriend at the time of the shooting. Further investigation revealed Keller and Dorsey's girlfriend had been arguing over the paternity of a child and the return of child support payments which apparently prompted Keller to respond to the Rudy Park residence. Upon arriving at the home, Keller broke a kitchen window to gain entry at approximately 1:40 a.m., which prompted Dorsey, who was sleeping in an upstairs bedroom with his girlfriend, to get out of bed to investigate the noise. When Dorsey opened the bedroom door, Keller was standing on the other side demanding money. Dorsey forced the bedroom door closed at which time Keller fired one shot through the closed bedroom door striking Dorsey. Keller then fled the area and was later located in South Carolina after he was arrested in South Carolina for his involvement in another fatal shooting.

At sentencing, members from Dorsey's family presented victim impact statements to the Court. Dorsey's mother spoke about the close and special bond she shared with her son, describing the profound loss his death has had on her and their family. At one point, she pointed to a box containing Dorsey's ashes as she told the Court that is all she had left of her son. During her statement, Dorsey's mother acknowledged the pain experienced by both her family and the Keller family, stating that the tragedy was entirely unnecessary and that, but for Keller's actions, neither family would be enduring such suffering.

Keller will return to South Carolina, to finish out the remainder of the prison term he has left to serve in that state. At the conclusion of that sentence, Keller will be transported back to Maryland, to begin serving the fifty-year sentence for the murder of Dorsey.

At the conclusion of the case, State's Attorney James A. Dellmyer stated, "The Dorsey family has waited many years for this day, following Keller being incarcerated in South Carolina. While no sentence can undo the profound loss the family has endured, it is my hope that today's guilty plea and sentencing provide a measure of closure as the family continues to honor the memory of their loved one."

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