

District Attorney Marc Bennett  
18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Kansas



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For Immediate Release, March 9, 2023

**WICHITA, KAN.** – A man was sentenced to prison for the stabbing death of his cousin. Wednesday afternoon, District Judge Jeffrey Syrios sentenced Jason Payne, 41 of Wichita, to 235 months for the death of Michael Montgomery who was disabled and in a wheelchair. He was 52.

On January 13, 2021, officers were called to the intersection of 13<sup>th</sup> and Oliver in Wichita and found Payne lying in the lanes of traffic. He told an officer that he had killed his cousin. Police went to Payne’s apartment in the 900 block of N. Oliver and found an empty wheelchair and several discarded latex gloves. In a crawl space, officers discovered a black, nylon duffel bag containing the body of Mr. Montgomery. An autopsy showed the victim had died of multiple stab wounds to the head and torso.

Payne admitted to police he became angry with his cousin when Michael told him he had molested some people in the past. Payne said he got a “throwing knife” out of his room and began stabbing his cousin. He said he continued to drink and do drugs until the time he decided to surrender himself for murdering his cousin Michael.

On July 29<sup>th</sup> of last year, Payne pled guilty to a charge of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder.

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