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HALIFAX COUNTY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 20, 2007

Today, Kenneth Alonzo Hodges, II, was convicted of the murder of Shelly Jackson in September of 2002. Hodges entered a plea of no contest to second degree murder in the Halifax County Circuit Court. Pursuant to an agreement reached with the prosecution, he was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 40 years, with all but 18 years suspended. Upon his release, according to the order of the Court, Mr. Hodges must be of good behavior for 40 years or risk reconfinement for the remaining suspended term.

Previously, Mr. Hodges was convicted by a jury in 2003. However that conviction was reversed by the Virginia Supreme Court and the case was returned for a retrial in the Halifax County Circuit Court. The appellate court's decision would have limited the evidence in the new trial that the Commonwealth was able to use against Hodges in the first trial.

"No amount of time will ever be sufficient for the taking of the life of Shelly Jackson," stated Commonwealth's Attorney, Kim Slayton White. "However, after consultation with members of Miss Jackson's family and with investigating law enforcement officers, we determined that a final conviction, without the possibility of a jury acquittal or a prolonged appeal, would be best for all involved."

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