



**KELLER J. BLACKBURN**  
*Athens County Prosecuting Attorney*

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## **ACPO PRESS RELEASE**

From: Keller J. Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

Date: September 2, 2015 ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

Mark Anthony Butcher Jr., 37, of Guysville, Ohio, appeared before Judge George P. McCarthy and a jury of her peers in the Athens County Common Pleas Court for a trial that began on Thursday, Thursday, August 27, 2015.

In addition to seating a jury on Thursday, August 27, 2015, opening statements, the victim and other State's witnesses testified. Witness testimony for both parties concluded on Monday, August 31, 2015, after which closing arguments were presented. The jury began deliberations on the morning of Tuesday, September 1, 2015.

At approximately 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2015, the jury came to a verdict.

Mark Anthony Butcher Jr. was found guilty on one (1) count of Aggravated Burglary, a felony of the first degree and one (1) count of Trespass in a Habitation, a felony of the fourth degree.

On September 2, 2015, the Court sentenced Butcher to a prison term of nine (9) years for this case. Butcher was also ordered to serve four (4) years and one (1) month for a post-release control case and six (6) years for a violation of community control case. Butcher's total prison term for the three (3) cases will be nineteen (19) years and one (1) month.

Prosecutor Blackburn states that, "On January 24, 2015, Butcher entered the home of another individual, uninvited, and started an argument with the individual. Butcher was asked to leave by the resident several times but refused. Butcher fled the scene before police arrived but was apprehended a short time later."

This case was investigated by the Athens Police Department.