



ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

NEWS RELEASE

Brendan F. Kelly - Director

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CONTACT: ISP Public Information Office
ISP.PIO.Personnel@illinois.gov

CAIRO MAN SENTENCED TO 70 YEARS FOR ALEXANDER COUNTY MURDER

ALEXANDER COUNTY – On May 2, 2024, 43-year-old Samuel L. Lewis from Cairo, IL was sentenced to 70 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The sentence includes 45 years for First Degree Murder plus an additional 25 years due to the statutory firearm enhancement. On January 15, 2024, a jury found Lewis guilty of First Degree Murder and that he personally discharged a firearm which caused the death of the victim.

The sentencing comes after an exhaustive investigation by the Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 7 into the murder of 34-year-old Lafayette D. Woods. On May 9, 2023, ISP was requested by the Cairo Police Department to investigate the shooting death of Woods, which occurred in the 2400 block of Sycamore Street in Cairo, IL. On May 16, 2023, following a thorough investigation, Lewis was arrested by ISP agents, with the assistance from the Alexander County Sheriff's Department, and the Cairo Police Department.

The case was prosecuted by the Alexander County State's Attorney's Office.



Samuel L. Lewis (M/43)

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