



For Immediate Release

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Man Sentenced to Life In Prison for Triple Homicide

Fort Worth, TX – A Tarrant County jury sentenced Lamont Cousins, 48, to life in prison without parole for killing three people, leaving one body at a Fort Worth used car dealership and two more in an abandoned building in Palo Pinto County.

Tarrant County Assistant District Attorneys Dale Smith and Lloyd Whelchel represented the State in this case.

On December 14, 2020, Cousins shot and killed three people – 46-year-old Veronica Del Jones, 65-year-old Virginia Lewis, and 55-year-old Clayton Turrentine – over a car deal.

"This case is about the execution of three people," Whelchel told the jury. "What he did was so terrible, and it caps a lifetime of behavior."

Cousins shot and killed Lewis at Bill's Auto Sales off Benbrook Highway. Police conducting a welfare check found her lying on the floor in a pool of her blood.

"The Defendant shot Virginia Lewis and left her to die on the ground like a dog," Smith said.

Cousins also shot Turrentine, owner of Bill's Auto Sales, and Jones, a dealership employee, at the dealership. Co-defendant Andrew Vandermeer testified that he tied up the two and drove them, with Cousins in the vehicle giving directions, to an abandoned bait shop in Palo Pinto County.

"They knew this was their last stop because (Cousins) told them: 'This is the end of the road,'" Smith told the jury.

Cousins took Turrentine into the building and shot him in the back of the head, killing him. He went back to the vehicle and got Jones. Cousins then walked her into the building and shot her in the back of the head, killing her as well. He and Vandermeer left the bodies there and returned to Fort Worth.

Whelchel and Smith told jurors that Cousins had a lifetime of crime, threats, and violence. They said he will not change in the future.

"This is not about vengeance," Smith said. "This is about justice."

These murders followed a car deal that involved Turrentine purchasing a red Dodge from Cousins and putting it on his lot. Someone bought the vehicle only to learn there was a lien on the car and it was repossessed. Turrentine returned the purchase price of the car to the buyer.

Vandermeer, 36, also faced a capital murder charge in this case. He plans to accept the state's offer of 45 years in prison in exchange for a guilty plea, Whelchel said.

Special thanks to DA Investigator Danny Nutt and Victim Coordinator Elizabeth Garcia for their work on the case, as well as to the Fort Worth and Grand Prairie Police Departments, the Palo Pinto Sheriff's Office, and the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force for working to bring justice to the victims.