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THREE SIBLINGS SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR NEGLECTING ELDERLY MOTHER

THE VICTIM, NOW 78, HAD GANGRENOUS LEG AMPUTATED AS RESULT OF NEGLECT

August 13, 2012

Three Aurora siblings have been sentenced to prison for allowing their mother's physical condition to deteriorate so severely that her gangrenous leg had to be amputated.

Connie A. Roberson, 51 (d.o.b. 8-27-1960), of the 1100 block of North Randall Road, Aurora, was sentenced today by Associate Judge T. Clint Hull to 2½ years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Her brother, Alan K. Roberson, 55 (d.o.b. 3-2-1957), also of the 1100 block of North Randall Road, Aurora, was sentenced today by Judge Hull to four years in IDOC.

Their brother, Kevin H. Roberson, 43 (d.o.b. 5-11-1969), of the 1100 block of North Randall Road, Aurora, was sentenced late Aug. 9, 2012, 2012, by Associate Judge T. Clint Hull to three years in IDOC.

On May 31, 2012, Kevin Roberson pleaded guilty to one count of criminal abuse or neglect of an elderly person, a Class 3 felony. On June 21, 2012, Alan Roberson and Connie Roberson each pleaded guilty to the same charge as their brother.

On Oct. 2, 2011, paramedics were called to a home in the 1100 block of North Randall Road, Aurora. When they arrived they found the victim, an elderly woman, sitting in her own feces and urine. Paramedics observed open sores on her body, including a three-inch deep open wound and bruising to her tailbone area. The victim's right leg and calf was black, and it was amputated soon after she was taken to the hospital. In addition, police reported that the interior of the house was badly unkempt and wreaked strongly of feces, urine and decomposing flesh, and that the victim's head was covered with scabies and head lice.

The investigation revealed that the victim had been released from the hospital in June 2011 for an unrelated illness and was taken to the residence, where she remained until she was seen by paramedics Oct. 2, 2011. The victim, now 78, and the three defendants shared the residence. Over time as the victim's physical

condition deteriorated, Alan, Connie and Kevin Roberson, her children, neglected to appropriately care for her. She sat and slept in a love seat that became soaked with urine and caked with feces. The defendants had discussed calling 911 because of their mother's deteriorating physical condition but were concerned about possible criminal charges as a result of the neglect, as well as how bills would be paid because the victim's retirement benefits were used to pay bills. Kevin and Alan Roberson declined requests by Connie Roberson to assist in caring for their mother. Kevin Roberson told police that he declined because he was not his mother's designated caregiver. A day after insects were found on the victim's gangrenous leg, 911 finally was called.

In issuing the sentence and determining whether probation would be more appropriate than prison, Judge Hull noted that the criminal behavior was a failure to perform duties required of a caregiver of an elderly person. Judge Hull said that a good faith effort was not provided, that the duty to care for the elderly is serious and that the statute must be complied with, and that a prison sentence was important to deter others in the community from committing the same crime. He said that the victim's uncooperative nature did not mitigate anyone's responsibility to provide care.

"We hope that people understand that when they are obligated by law to provide care for the most vulnerable in our community, they have a legal responsibility to make sure that timely and appropriate medical care is provided," Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said.

"It is difficult not to get a somewhat emotional about this case. Although this victim is now in the care of professionals and her health has improved since she was discovered last October, it remains unsettling that she was forced to live in such horrendous conditions in the first place, and was unnecessarily forced to suffer."

According to Illinois law, all three are eligible for day-for-day sentencing. They were given credit for time served in the Kane County jail since their respective arrests. Alan Roberson had been held in lieu of \$71,500 bail, Connie Roberson had been held in lieu of \$50,000 bail and Kevin Roberson was held in lieu of \$50,000 bail.