



## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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# Press Release

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## GUILTY PLEA IN MATTHEW NAGLE STABBING

*Victim lived for six years after stabbing*

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Eight years after stabbing Matthew Nagle in the neck, and two years after Nagle succumbed to those injuries, Nicholas Cirignano today (November 10, 2009) pled guilty to manslaughter in the case.

“We had already secured a strong prison term against Cirignano for attempted murder while Matt was still alive,” District Attorney William R. Keating said after today's plea in Norfolk Superior Court. “But it was important that this attack be called what it was: A homicide.”

Local police responded to a large disturbance at the dead-end portion of Caldwell Street in North Weymouth at roughly 10:30 p.m. on July 3, 2001 during a town Independence Day Celebration. There they found 22-year-old Matthew R. Nagle (DOB 10-16-79) with a stab wound to the neck. After being transported to Boston Medical Center, doctors learned that his severed spinal cord would render him quadriplegic and unable to breathe without medical assistance.

A Norfolk Superior Court jury convicted Nicholas M. Cirignano (DOB: 12-18-80) February 3, 2005 of assault with intent to kill and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Nagle passed away on Monday, July 23, 2007.

“Although it is not commonplace to be able to bring a homicide charge when the victim has lived for several years after the attack, it is also not unprecedented in Massachusetts or elsewhere in the country,” District Attorney Keating said after a Norfolk County Grand Jury indicted Cirignano for second degree murder in June 2008. Judge Kenneth Fishman reduced that murder charge to Manslaughter on April 6, 2009.

“Cirignano is still serving the 9 to 10 year state prison sentence imposed on him by judge Judith Fabricant in 2005,” District Attorney Keating said today (November 10, 2009). After extensive meetings and discussions with the Nagle family, Assistant District Attorney Robert Nelson recommended 10 years probation after the completion of Cirignano's current 9 to 10 year sentence in exchange for the guilty plea.

“At the end of his incarceration, he will have a decade of supervision including drug and alcohol evaluation and treatment and no ownership of weapons. And if there is any probation violation, he will have a potential 20 year sentence hanging over his head,” District Attorney Keating said.

The Nagles were present in court for the plea, after which Cirignano returned to prison. “Our thoughts are with the Nagle family, and we are pleased that the long court process has ended in a homicide conviction of the man who stabbed their son,” District Attorney Keating said.

*Any and all defendants mentioned are legally innocent until proven guilty.*