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PRESS RELEASE

Edwardsville— An Alton man was sentenced today to 50 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for shooting and killing his cousin in July 2011.

Damond Riddlespriger (d.o.b. 8/1/90), who was convicted by a Madison County jury in January 2015 for shooting his 22-year-old cousin, Marlon Poindexter, was sentenced this morning to 50 years in prison. On July 11, 2011, the victim met up with the defendant and two other men in Alton around 4:00 p.m. All four were in a car with Riddlespriger sitting behind Poindexter who was in the driver's seat. While in the vehicle, Riddlespriger pulled out a gun and shot his cousin once in the back of his head. Poindexter was transported to a local hospital where he later was pronounced dead. The investigation showed Riddlespriger had been upset with his cousin over his relationship with a female acquaintance.

State's Attorney Tom Gibbons argued in support of a lengthy sentence this morning in front of Circuit Judge Richard Tognarelli who sentenced Riddlespriger to 25 years for the murder and another 25 years for his use of a firearm. State's Attorney Gibbons praised First Assistant State's Attorney Jennifer Vucich and Assistant State's Attorney Ryan Sweet in obtaining the conviction against Riddlespriger in January. "My prosecutors did an excellent job of carefully presenting the details of this complicated case to the jury who thankfully found the defendant guilty of murder."

He also thanked officers with the Alton Police Department and the Illinois State Police as well as the pathologist and the Madison County Coroner's Office for their work on the case.

Gibbons expressed his condolences to the families involved in this very difficult case. "Damond Riddlespriger murdered his cousin in cold blood. He deserves to be in prison where he can no longer be a threat to his community or his own family," said Gibbons following the sentence.

Riddlespriger is required to serve 100% of his sentence.

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