



ROANOKE COUNTY NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Grand Jury Charges Jeffrey Scott Easley with Killing Tina Smith *Prosecutor Given the Option to Pursue the Death Penalty*

ROANOKE COUNTY, VA (June 3, 2011) – A Roanoke County grand jury today charged 33-year-old Jeffrey Scott Easley with Murder in the Commission of Abduction with Intent to Defile. This charge is one of the forms of capital murder in Virginia, which means if convicted Easley faces the possibility of life in prison with no parole or death. Roanoke County Commonwealth's Attorney Randy Leach said this afternoon that he has *not* yet decided whether he will pursue the death penalty.

Easley is accused of killing 41-year-old Tina Smith in her Roanoke County home in December of last year. Her body was discovered on December 6 by coworkers who went to check on Smith when she failed to show up for work. Detectives who were called to the home soon discovered that Smith's then 12-year-old daughter, Brittany Mae Smith, was missing. Earlier this year, Easley was charged with abduction with intent to defile for taking Brittany from the family home. Police sought that charge, which carries a potential life sentence, because they believe Easley intended to sexually assault the child when she was abducted. He's scheduled to go to trial on the abduction charge next month, but that trial date will likely be delayed.

Easley is being held in the Western Virginia Regional Jail without bond. A court date on this newest charged has not yet been set.

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