

# Commonwealth of Virginia

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## **COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO ANNOUNCES VERONICA YOUNGBLOOD SENTENCED UP TO 78 YEARS FOR MURDERING TWO DAUGHTERS**

Fairfax County, VA — Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano announced today that Veronica Youngblood, 37, was sentenced to up to 78 years by a jury for killing her two daughters in 2018. The jury convicted her of four felonies last week, including two counts of first-degree murder (36 years each) and two counts of use of a firearm in commission of a murder (3 years each).

On the night of August 5, 2018, Youngblood shot her daughters, Sharon Castro, 15, and Brooklynn Youngblood, 5, in their McLean apartment. She told detectives that she planned to kill them and herself following a protracted custody dispute, which had Brooklynn set to move to Missouri with Veronica's ex-husband, Ron, that weekend. Youngblood purchased a gun on July 27<sup>th</sup> and, on the night of the killing, fed her daughters sleeping pill gummies before shooting them in their beds.

"Sharon and Brooklynn are two children that should be alive today," CA Descano said. "I have an 11-year-old daughter who has her whole life ahead of her -- and it guts me to imagine her life cut short. This case is a terrible tragedy and I hope today's verdict brings a measure of healing for the family."

Veronica Youngblood was born in Argentina and met Ron Youngblood, a Navy pilot, while he was stationed there in 2007. They relocated to Virginia in 2015 and divorced in 2016.

A jury determines the sentence a judge has discretion over. A sentencing hearing will be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to hear additional victim testimony and impose the final sentence.

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