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**COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO ANNOUNCES
MEGAN HARGAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR 2017 MURDERS OF MOM, SISTER**

Fairfax County, VA — Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano announced today that Megan Hargan received two consecutive life sentences for killing her mother, Pamela, and sister, Helen, in July 2017. She was sentenced to an additional six years for the two weapons charges.

Hargan was convicted in September 2023 of two counts of first-degree murder and two counts of using a firearm in commission of a felony. (An initial jury found Hargan guilty in November 2022, but that conviction was vacated due to juror misconduct.)

On the afternoon of July 14, 2017, Megan Hargan, 41, shot Pamela, 63, and Helen, 24, in Pamela's McLean home where the three were living at the time, along with Hargan's then-8-year-old daughter. Hargan staged the house as a murder-suicide and claimed that younger sister Helen had killed their mom before killing herself.

Evidence presented at trial showed that the conflict stemmed from a financial dispute: Megan, who was buying a house in West Virginia, resented that her mother, Pamela, wasn't helping her financially but was at the same time helping her sister Helen to buy a house. On July 13, the day before the killings, Megan attempted to transfer upwards of \$400,000 from her mother's bank account to pay for Megan's new house, which was closing that day. The transaction was flagged as fraud, and the next day Megan shot her mother before attempting to make the same wire transfer again from her mother's account. She then shot her sister Helen, who was upstairs at the time. Both family members were killed by a .22 rifle, which belonged to Megan's husband and was being stored in the McLean house temporarily.

"Megan Hargan's actions in July 2017 go beyond what most of us can imagine. On a quiet Friday morning in her mother's home, she made an irreversible decision – one that would devastate her family and tear the community apart. First-degree murder is the most serious offense you can be convicted of in Virginia, and today's sentence reflects the gravity of the defendant's crimes," CA Descano said.

"This was a complicated case to prosecute, and we would not be here today without the detectives, witnesses, and family members who persisted through two lengthy, emotional trials. I want to express my gratitude for their resolve in bringing this case to justice."

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