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**CA STEVE DESCANO ANNOUNCES COLLINS AGYEI CONVICTED,
SENTENCED TO 23 YEARS FOR SHOOTING FORMER PARTNER**

Fairfax County, VA — Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano announced today that a jury has sentenced Collins Yaw Agyei to 23 years for shooting his former girlfriend on February 7, 2023. The jury convicted Agyei, 29, of malicious wounding and use of a firearm in commission of a felony on Tuesday. He was sentenced to 20 years and a \$100,000 fine for the malicious wounding and 3 years for the use of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

Agyei, of Prince George's County, had been in a relationship with the victim, Esther Arko, 28, for around five years, and they had a young son together. At trial, prosecutors showed how Agyei planned the attack, waiting outside the apartment building in the Mount Vernon area where the victim lived. On February 7, as she returned from putting their son on the school bus, he confronted her, shooting at her 6 times with a handgun. A portion of the attack was captured on her cellphone video, which was played in court.

"This devastating assault has permanently changed the trajectory of the victim's life," said CA Descano. "The defendant's choice to lie in wait for the victim – and attack her as she returned from putting their child on the school bus – shows a rare level of maliciousness and danger to the wider community. I hope today's outcome, and the fact that the defendant is going to be out of the community for over two decades, will provide some measure of comfort for the victim, her son, and their family."

A sentencing date was set for April 25, 2025. The jury provides a sentencing cap; the final sentence is then decided by the court, which may impose up to but not more than the sentence given by the jury.

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