

**JURY FINDS RUSSELL FARIA GUILTY OF  
MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE AND ARMED CRIMINAL ACTION**

TROY, Mo. – Lincoln County Prosecuting Attorney, Leah Wommack Askey, announced today that Russell Faria, 43, of Troy, Missouri, was found guilty by a Lincoln County jury on November 21, 2013, for the stabbing death of his wife, Elizabeth “Betsy” Faria.

Faria was charged with Murder in the First Degree and Felony Armed Criminal Action. Sentencing is set for December 23, 2013.

The charges arose on December 27, 2011, when Elizabeth Faria was found stabbed to death in her Lincoln County home. Medical examination revealed Ms. Faria was stabbed over 55 times with a knife and the murder weapon remained in her neck. Her husband, Russell Faria, provided an alleged alibi for the evening his wife was brutally murdered. However, Lincoln County Prosecutor, Leah Wommack Askey, discounted the alibi stating, “I don’t believe it, I have never believed it. There were too many inconsistencies with their story and I never found them credible.”

The Major Case Squad assisted local law enforcement and over 100 leads were examined and explored. “Law enforcement verified the alibis and eliminated the possibility of any other suspects. They were very thorough in their investigation and all indicators pointed to the victim’s husband.”

“This type of killing is personal and passionate. Betsy was stabbed with a knife from her own kitchen and there was no evidence of forced entry in the home. This was a difficult case to try. I had the utmost faith in our jury and their ability to use reason and common sense. Ultimately, after long deliberations, justice was served and Betsy Faria’s voice was heard,” said Wommack Askey.

**This case was prosecuted by Prosecuting Attorney Leah Wommack Askey and Special Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Richard Hicks. It was investigated by the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office and the Major Case Squad.**

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