

## Marion County Prosecutor's Office



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## Larry Jo Taylor Jr. sentenced 86 years for murder of Amanda Blackburn

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears announced today that Larry Jo Taylor Jr. has been sentenced to 86 years in the Indiana Department of Correction for the Murder of Amanda Blackburn and additional felonies related to burglaries of multiple homes.

In September, Taylor was convicted of Murder, Burglary (Level 1 Felony), two counts of Theft (Level 6 Felony and Misdemeanor), Criminal Confinement (Level 3 Felony), two counts of Burglary (Level 4 Felonies), Auto Theft (Level 6 Felony), and Carrying a Handgun Without a License (A Misdemeanor).

“Nearly seven years after this tragic and senseless murder, justice has been secured for Amanda,” Prosecutor Mears said. “I commend the Blackburn family and the community for the tremendous amount of patience and grace they have shown throughout this process. We hope that today’s resolution provides finality to a very difficult chapter.”

Prosecutors credited the community’s cooperation for its role in the success of this case.

On November 10, 2015, police were dispatched to the city’s north side on reports of break-ins in the area. Taylor and two others, identified as Jalen Watson and Diano Gordon, were involved in the string of burglaries. Taylor shot and killed Blackburn while he was burglarizing her home.

In 2017, Jalen Watson pleaded guilty to Burglary and Robbery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury and was sentenced to 29 years in prison for his role in the crime.

In 2018, Gordon pleaded guilty to Burglary and Robbery Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury. In September, Gordon received a 30-year sentence with 25 years in prison for his role in the crime.