

ALERT

TOP STORY

Two sentenced in 2022 slaying of Spotsylvania resident at his home

Keith Epps

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An Alexandria man who shot and killed Spotsylvania resident Timothy Alsfeld in 2022 after Alsfeld came home and found two intruders in his residence was ordered Monday to serve 43 years in prison.

David Vinh Hoang, 35, received the sentence in Spotsylvania Circuit Court, where he'd previously been convicted of first-degree murder, arson and other charges. Judge Ricardo Rigual's sentence was at the top of the recommended state sentencing guidelines.

Alsfeld was killed on July 28, 2022, at his home on Grand Brooks Road. According to the evidence presented previously by prosecutors Jeff Adams and Kelly Green, Alsfeld returned home about 9 p.m. that night and found Hoang and 39-year-old Spotsylvania resident John Christopher "Breezy" Brown inside.

Brown, who was also sentenced Monday and ordered to serve just over 18 years in prison, testified in Hoang's trial that Alsfeld shouted "who the hell is in my house?" Hoang responded with a bullet to Alsfeld's head.

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After jumping out of a window following the shooting, Brown said he returned to the home because he'd left his phone and some drugs there. He said he saw Hoang pour bleach over Alsfeld's body before pointing the gun at him and ordering him to cover the body with plastic.

Brown, who claimed he was in the home looking for scrap metal he could sell for some drugs, said he followed Hoang's orders out of fear. He said Hoang had fired a shot at him and hit him with a shovel the previous day.

Part of his role in the attempted coverup, Brown said, was to get rid of Alsfield's truck. He drove it for a couple of days before wrecking it in nearby Louisa County, where it caught fire. Brown and Hoang later set Alsfield's home on fire in an attempt to cover their crimes, knowing that police would be coming there after finding the burned truck.

Brown, who was arrested several days after the slaying, said he'd been using methamphetamine and other drugs at the time of the incident. He said Hoang gave him 4 ounces of meth in exchange for his coverup efforts.

Prosecutors Monday argued that Hoang deserved a hefty sentence. Green said that after killing Alsfield, Hoang "desecrated" his body and destroyed his property.

"It was a crime driven by greed," Green said. "And instead of trying to run or talk himself out of trouble [when Alsfield got home], his immediate response was to kill him."

Defense attorney John Spencer asked Rigual to stay within the guidelines, claiming that Hoang had a limited criminal history prior to this case.

Hoang made a one-sentence statement prior to being sentenced, saying simply "I didn't do it."

Prosecutors were much more sympathetic toward Brown, asking the judge for a sentence toward the lower end of his guidelines. They told the judge that even though he lied during an early interview with Detective J.D. Harris, he later provided details that helped them solve the case and get convictions.

Public Defender Patricia Bolen, Brown's attorney, said there was no violence in Brown's prior criminal history. "The reason he is here is because of his addiction," she said.

Brown expressed remorse for Alsfield's death Monday, saying "I can never express how sorry I am for the pain I've caused Mr. Alsfield and his family ... there's not a day that goes by that I don't wish I could change what happened that day."

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