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Ronald Collins sentenced to 45 years for July 2020 murder of James Hayden

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears announced today that Ronald Collins has been sentenced to 45 years in prison for the July 1, 2020 murder of James Hayden, his long-time friend. In February, Ronald Collins pleaded guilty to Murder.

During a welfare check, Police discovered Hayden's body in the back bedroom of his home on the eastside. Duct tape and electrical wiring restrained the victim's body, and there were severe injuries to his neck.

Inside the residence, there were obvious signs of an altercation, including several broken items throughout the home, blood splatter on the walls, and a bloody serrated knife that was found in the kitchen sink.

Throughout the investigation, witnesses noted that Collins had recently been driving Hayden's truck and had several items that belonged to the victim. In an interview with detectives, Collins admitted to staying at Hayden's residence and that they had been friends since he was 13-years-old.