

Man Sentenced to Life for Murder of Cousin

(KNZA)--A St. Joseph man has been sentenced to life in prison without parole for the 2015 shooting death of his cousin.

***The St. Joseph News Press* reports 34-year-old Charles Coats, Jr. was sentenced Monday in Buchanan County Circuit Court on a charge of first-degree murder in the death of 32-year-old Jason Ginn, of St. Joseph.**

In addition to the life sentence, Coats was sentenced to 20 years in prison on a charge of armed criminal action. The two sentences were ordered to be served at the same time.

A jury found Coats guilty on the charges in May.

Authorities say Ginn was shot and killed August 1st, 2015 in midtown St. Joseph following a dispute between the two men. An autopsy found Ginn was shot five times, with a fatal gunshot wound to the head.

Coats fled the area following the shooting. He surrendered to law enforcement in Columbia, Missouri five days later.

Many Signals Communications