

District Attorney's
Office
State of North Carolina
26th Prosecutorial District
Mecklenburg County

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NEWS RELEASE

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III
District Attorney

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Husband convicted of second-degree murder in neglect death of his wife

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – A jury has found Louis Kornhaber guilty in the 2021 neglect death of his wife, 66-year-old Bonnie Kornhaber. The trial, which began February 24, 2025, and concluded with today's verdict, was held in courtroom 5170 before the Honorable Matthew J. Osman, Superior Court Judge.

The Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Homicide Team tried Louis Kornhaber, 70, for 1) second-degree murder and 2) neglect of a disabled or elder adult resulting in serious physical injury. The jury found him *guilty as charged*. Judge Osman sentenced him to 94-125 months in prison.

Bonnie Kornhaber and the defendant were married for 40 years. On October 6, 2020, she returned home from the hospital after a stay related to a medical condition that left her wheelchair bound. The defendant secured her to the chair with a belt. At some point, she slipped out of the chair onto the floor where she remained for 6-8 months. The defendant never called 911 for help to that point, he told detectives, because he and Bonnie were embarrassed by the conditions inside the house. On June 4, 2021, Bonnie told him she was having difficulty breathing. The defendant went into the den to watch television for several hours. Several hours later, the defendant called 911 and reported that Bonnie was unresponsive. Upon their arrival, first responders found Bonnie deceased, lying on a pile of trash, surrounded by spoiled food in what detectives referred to as a "hoarder house." She was covered in her own waste, suffering from extensive sores, with insect activity present in many of the open bed sores on her body.

If you think someone 18 years of age or older may be a victim of abuse, neglect, or exploited and in need of protection, you can call the [Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services' Adult Protective Services](#) at 704-336-2273 (CARE).

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