



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Norfolk DA will not move to Try Amy Bishop in 1986 shooting

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Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey announced today that he would not initiate rendition proceedings on Amy Bishop, who stands indicted for the 1986 shooting of her brother Seth in Braintree, Mass., and who was sentenced Monday, Sept. 24, 2012, to life in prison with no chance of parole after admitting guilt in a mass shooting at an Alabama University.

“We will not move to have her returned to Massachusetts. The penalty we would seek for a first degree murder conviction is already in place,” District Attorney Morrissey said. “By entering a nolle prosequi, the indictment is withdrawn without prejudice – meaning that if circumstances change, a prosecution could be initiated again.”

Presuming that Bishop’s guilty plea and associated life-without-parole sentence remain undisturbed in Alabama, it is unlikely that Norfolk County authorities will take additional action. “In almost all cases, guilty pleas mark the end of the process and the conviction is not vulnerable to being overturned on appeal,” Morrissey said.

District Attorney Morrissey came to his decision after consulting with his counterpart in Alabama, District Attorney Robert Broussard, about the details of the plea and its consequences. “And perhaps most importantly, with a life-without-parole sentence in place, there is not an issue of public safety.”

All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.