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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Response from State Attorney Monique Worrell

ORANGE COUNTY, FL (July 30, 2026) — The appointed attorney general’s statement is misleading, and it exploits a family’s tragedy in an effort to score political points.

The facts matter. This was not a “sweetheart deal.” The plea agreement required the defendant to serve 30 years in prison for killing his wife. It was a resolution the victim’s family requested — a request rooted in the fact they did not want to sit through a trial that would force them to relive one of the worst days of their lives in open court, in front of strangers, for days or weeks on end.

Judges and prosecutors weigh sentencing outcomes, trial risks, and the certainty of a plea against the uncertainty of a verdict every day. Reasonable people can and do disagree on where that balance lands. What cannot be dismissed is the family’s own voice — the people who lived through this loss and asked for this outcome.

The appointed attorney general had a choice: respect a grieving family’s wishes or use their pain as a talking point. Without reason, he continues to be ill-informed about the inner workings of an office he has no direct knowledge of. While I understand he’s running for the office he’s been appointed to, and he thinks he knows best, victims and their families deserve better than watching their tragedy repurposed for political gain.

My office will continue pursuing justice with integrity, compassion, and respect for the people we serve and not the will of the appointed attorney general.

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The Office of the State Attorney for the Ninth Judicial Circuit is represented by The Honorable Monique H. Worrell and serves Orange and Osceola counties in Central Florida. A culturally diverse community, the area is home to over 1.9 million residents and is a vacation destination for millions each year. Our office is committed to making Orlando and the surrounding area a vibrant and safe place to live, work and play.

For general media inquiries, please contact: PIO@sao9.org.

For media records request, please contact: mediarecordsrequest@sao9.org.

For specific media inquiries pertaining to State Attorney Monique Worrell, please contact Belal Jaber at BJaber@sao9.org and Samantha Muchard at SMuchard@sao9.org.

Seek Justice. Love Mercy. Walk Humbly.