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for the  
**COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On February 2, 2015, the Grand Jury for the County of Albemarle returned two indictments against Jesse Leroy Matthew, Jr. in connection with the September 13, 2014 disappearance and death of Hannah Elizabeth Graham. Matthew was charged with First Degree Murder of Hannah Graham and Abduction with the Intent to Defile Hannah Graham. The maximum penalty for each of these offenses is life in prison.

Additionally, Mr. Matthew was indicted on two charges of reckless driving arising from an incident occurring on September 20, 2014. Each of these charges is a misdemeanor with a maximum potential penalty of 12 months in jail.

Rule 3.6 of the Virginia State Bar's Rules of Professional Conduct for Attorneys states, in pertinent part: "A lawyer participating in or associated with the... prosecution ... of a criminal matter that may be tried to a jury shall not make or participate in making an extrajudicial statement... that the lawyer knows, or should know, will have a substantial likelihood of interfering with the fairness of a trial by jury." Therefore, the Commonwealth is prohibited from discussing the evidence, the penalty it may seek, its trial strategy or its work product prior to trial.

Media inquiries seeking comment on the evidence, the penalty that may be sought, trial strategy or work product will not be addressed.