



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Amarah Banks's Family Requests Privacy

MILWAUKEE – July 16, 2021 – The parents of Amarah Banks, Acklen and Valeria Banks, request privacy at the sentencing of Arzel J. Ivery for the tragic murders of Amarah and her daughters on Feb. 8, 2020. The sentencing is scheduled for today, Friday, July 16.

The family does not wish to be interviewed or approached at the courthouse and will issue a statement at the Family Peace Center, 619 W. Walnut St., in Milwaukee, immediately following the sentencing.

A family spokesperson, Gerald Farinas, will read a statement. Valeria Banks and her son, David Banks, will take questions from reporters. The media is asked to comply with the Family Peace Center's COVID-safety protocols by maintaining social distancing and wearing masks inside the building.

"Our hearts are grieving with the Banks family," said Sojourner President and CEO Carmen Pitre. "The depth of this loss is simply unimaginable and we urge the media to respect the family's right to privacy during this difficult time."

Domestic violence-related deaths have increased by 400% over the past two years. If you or someone you know is impacted by domestic violence, please reach out for help. Risk assessment, emergency shelter, advocacy and support services are available. Contact Sojourner's 24-hour domestic violence hotline by phone (414) 933-2722 or text (414) 877-8100 to connect with an Advocate.

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About Sojourner

The mission of Sojourner is to transform lives impacted by domestic violence. Sojourner provides crisis housing, system advocacy and individual support. Sojourner is the largest provider of domestic violence prevention and intervention services in Wisconsin, serving more than 10,000 clients annually. Our primary goals are to ensure the safety of victims of family violence and to provide a pathway out of violence for victims and abusers through opportunities to make positive and lasting changes for themselves and their children. Sojourner is committed to creating communities where people live peacefully. For more information, visit www.familypeacecenter.org or contact the 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline: Call (414) 933-2722 or text: (414) 877-8100.