



## OFFICE OF THE MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR

**ANGELO J. ONOFRI**  
*Prosecutor*

**TRACEY McKEOWN**  
*Chief of County Detectives*

209 S. Broad Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 8068  
Trenton, New Jersey 08650-0068  
Phone: (609) 989-6350  
mercercountyprosecutor.com

**STEPHANIE A. KATZ**  
*First Assistant Prosecutor*

**MICHAEL J. NOVEMBRE**  
*Deputy Chief of County Detectives*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 16, 2019

**CONTACT:** Casey A. DeBlasio  
(609) 989-6379

### **City Man Sentenced to 25 Years for Ewing Home Invasion**

A Trenton man was recently sentenced to 25 years in state prison for a 2016 home invasion in Ewing Township. That term carries a mandatory period of parole ineligibility of 25 years, Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri reported.

Joseph Blanche, 25, was sentenced by Mercer County Superior Court Judge Darlene Pereksta on August 9. He pleaded guilty to first-degree kidnapping in June of this year.

On March 29, 2016, Ewing police responded to a residence on Manor Drive after neighbors found the garage door open and were concerned for the welfare of the female resident. Police located the resident, 91-year-old Doris Geisel, tied up on the basement floor. She had been beaten and bound by two male assailants who entered her home in the early morning hours. After assaulting the elderly woman, the suspects went throughout the house stealing money and valuables, eventually leaving in the victim's car. The vehicle was recovered the following day in Ewing Township.

Geisel suffered serious injuries and was taken to Capital Health Regional Medical Center. She died on April 20, 2016. An autopsy conducted by the Mercer County Medical Examiner's Office determined that Geisel's death was not a result of the injuries she sustained in the March assault.

During the course of the investigation conducted by the Ewing Township Police Department, detectives were able to identify Blanche as one of the two male assailants.

He was arrested and charged a few days after the attack. The second suspect remains unidentified. Anyone with information is asked to contact Ewing Police Detective Nicholas Muscente at (609) 882-7522 or the Ewing Police Tip Line at (609) 882-7530.

Administrative Assistant Prosecutor Stacey Geurds and Assistant Prosecutor Timothy McCann prosecuted the case for the state.

**# # #**