

**ONTARIO COURT OF JUSTICE**

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

v.

ALEXANDER STAVROPOULOS

R E A S O N S F O R S E N T E N C E

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE LISCHE

On December 15, 2021, at SUDBURY, Ontario

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BROADCAST OR TRANSMITTED BY ORDER OF  
JUSTICE LISCHE**

APPEARANCES:

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Stavropoulos

(i.)  
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**LEGEND**

[sic] Indicates preceding word has been reproduced verbatim and is not a transcription error.

(ph) Indicates preceding word has been spelled phonetically

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R E A S O N S   F O R   S E N T E N C E

LISCHE, J. (Orally):

5           So, I wish to remind everyone that there is a  
publication ban in effect for this case. I also wish  
to explain to the victim's family that although I  
appreciate that the child victim is referred to by  
family as [REDACTED] G.M. the charging document, the count  
the offender pled guilty to, relates to [REDACTED] G.M.  
10           Consequently, I often refer to [REDACTED] G.M. but it is  
clear that [REDACTED] G.M. and [REDACTED] G.M. are one in the same  
person.

15           This is a very difficult and troubling case. [REDACTED] A.C.  
[REDACTED] had absolutely no idea that taking her two  
daughters: [REDACTED] E.M. age three, and [REDACTED] G.M. eight  
months old, to a local craft store during the  
afternoon of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 would end in brutality,  
carnage, permanent trauma, and forever change at  
20           least three generations of her family for the worst.  
She had no way of knowing that Alexander  
Stavropoulos was lurking and waiting for an  
opportunity to kill a little white girl. How could  
she know that a perfect stranger would attack her,  
try to kill her, and then try to kill her infant.  
25           She had no idea he had been there for hours waiting,  
lurking, in the middle of the afternoon in plain  
sight, watching families and people come and go,  
waiting for the right ones to kill. How could she  
know that he had made a plan and was executing it?  
30           She was oblivious to the fact that he had been  
thinking about killing a little white girl for a  
couple of months. She did not know him before that

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day. In fact, she did not know he existed until he was in close proximity to her, grabbed her hair and stabbed her, armed with a utility knife in each hand from behind several times before turning on her infant who was in her baby stroller.

10  
This was completely random for [REDACTED] A.C. [REDACTED] E.M. and [REDACTED] G.M. There was no way for [REDACTED] A.C. to predict it, no way for her to prepare for it, no way for her to prevent it, and no way for her to stop it. Even as she fought to stay alive to protect her children, there was no way for her to know that this unprovoked attack came from a place of hatred and racism.

15  
According to the offender, [REDACTED] A.C. fought pretty hard and he thought she was going to go down easier. He stabbed [REDACTED] A.C. repeatedly in the back of the neck and the back of the head. The photos show that the knife stabbed through [REDACTED] A.C. coat seven times. The first stab wound inflicted on [REDACTED] A.C. was the one that almost killed her and permanently disabled her. It injured her vertebral artery, a major neck artery. This is a fatal injury if left untreated due to the blood loss. [REDACTED] A.C. and her daughter were his intended targets because they were female, because of the colour of their skin, and because he wanted to kill a child for greater shock value.

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[REDACTED] A.C. and eight-month old [REDACTED] G.M. did not die on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, despite the repeated efforts of the offender, due to a series of events that were out of

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his control. Firstly, **A.C.** fought harder than he expected. **A.C.** is the first hero of the day. When **B.H.** heard the loud, horrific screaming from a woman in the parking lot in the afternoon of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 and took action, he had no idea that he would be considered a hero, saved two lives, and potentially a third, but I will address this again later. **B.H.** saw Alexander Stavropoulos repeatedly punch into the stroller five to six times. He saw the baby bouncing in the stroller and he approached the attacker who was still armed. **B.H.** fought the attacker and restrained him at a distance from the two victims and **E.M.** and called 9-1-1 He repeatedly struggled with the attacker who kept trying to get at the knives until the police arrived. **B.H.** a heroic bystander is part of the second reason **A.C.** and **G.M.** are alive.

**C.B.** another witness to the events, was at the time a family medicine resident who worked in the emergency room at Health Sciences North. She saw this blood spurting out of **A.C.** neck. It was pulsatile, that is to say that every time the victim's heart beat, blood would be expelled from the wound at high pressure resulting in a rapid loss of blood. In **C.B.** medical opinion, had medical intervention not taken place, **A.C.** would have likely bled to death at the scene.

The third hero of the day was **C.B.** who helped save **A.C.** life.

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5 The other witnesses at the scene helped put pressure on [REDACTED] A.C. [REDACTED] neck wound as [REDACTED] C.B. [REDACTED] had trouble keeping adequate pressure on the wound by herself. Witnesses also tended to the blood-covered infant in the stroller who was crying hysterically, and her three year old sister in the vehicle who was worried about her mother and sister.

10 Paramedics rushed [REDACTED] A.C. [REDACTED] to the hospital in critical condition. [REDACTED] A.C. [REDACTED] injury was complex and compounded by various factors. And it took a team of several doctors working together to save her life.

15 Throughout this case, wherever you look, you see heroic acts that culminated together to save lives. The northern Ontario community of Sudbury rallied in the face of danger to confront and fight off an assailant with two knives who was stabbing a mother and at her infant. The medical community rose to the challenge, and together found a life-saving solution to a complex, dire, and urgent medical emergency.

20 The individual before the court is Alexander Stavropoulos, born June 5, 1993. He is currently 28.

25 On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, he was charged with several offences, including attempting to murder [REDACTED] G.M. [REDACTED] attempting to murder [REDACTED] A.C. [REDACTED] and breaching his probation order by possessing knives outside of his residence. In total, Mr. Stavropoulos was charged with seven offences.

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The Crown elected by indictment where they had an election and Mr. Stavropoulos elected to have this matter dealt with in the Ontario Court of Justice without a Preliminary inquiry.

10  
On January 13, 2020, Alexander Stavropoulos entered pleas of guilty to the three aforementioned charges, namely two counts of attempted murder and one count of breach of probation.

15  
The pleas were informed, voluntary and he had the benefit of counsel, Mr. Xynnis and Mr. Sandberg. On the pleas of guilty the Crown filed Exhibit 1, a book of exhibits containing 18 tabs. The crown filed the statement of fact which can be found at Exhibit 2. The Crown filed as Exhibit 2(a) an Appendix A which contained relevant excerpts of the video statement of Mr. Stavropoulos to the police. Exhibit 3 contains the 9-1-1 calls of [REDACTED] B.H. and [REDACTED] C.B. Exhibit 4 is the DVD statement of Alexander Stavropoulos to the Greater Sudbury Police Service on June 3, 2019. Mr. Stavropoulos admitted the facts and the information filed on the pleas by the Crown and was found guilty on January 13, 2020.

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On August 7, 2020, a transcript of the proceedings from January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 was filed as Exhibit 5 and the Curriculum Vitae of Dr. Jonathan David Gray was filed as Exhibit 6. On September 2, 2021, the Crown filed at Exhibit 7 the Crown's book of exhibits on sentencing, containing five tabs. The CV or curriculum vitae of Dr. Aidan Wharton as Exhibit 8,

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5 and the updated CV of Dr. Jonathan Gray as Exhibit 9. On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, the Crown filed as Exhibit 10 the addendum to the victim impact statement of [REDACTED] A.C. [REDACTED] A.C. dated September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

10 Although the Crown initially gave notice that they intended to make application for a dangerous offender designation, they ultimately abandoned that request and gave the defence notice of their position well in advanced of September of 2021.

15 During the sentencing hearing which was held on September 2, 3, and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the court heard from three witnesses called by the Crown. The first was Dr. Aidan Wharton, a doctor of emergency medicine and critical care, and a trauma team leader who examined and discharged Alexander Stavropoulos on June 3, 2019. The second witness at the sentencing hearing was Constable Brett Burnett, a 12 year officer with the Greater Sudbury Police Service who dealt with Mr. Stavropoulos on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019 at the scene, afterward at the hospital and at police headquarters. The third witness called by the Crown was Dr. Jonathan David Gray, a forensic psychiatrist who, on consent, was qualified as an expert in forensic psychiatry, assessment and management of risk of violence and assessment and treatment of offenders. His 67 page report is found at tab 1 of Exhibit 7.

30 The defence did not call any evidence at the



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sentencing hearing.

The Position of the Parties:

5 In reviewing the position of the Crown, they asked this court to find that a fit sentence for Mr. Stavropoulos is one of life imprisonment and ancillary orders such as DNA, a lifetime's weapons prohibition under Section 109, and a non communication order under Section 743.21 while Mr. Stavropoulos is in custody. Furthermore, the Crown seeks that this court delay the parole eligibility of Mr. Stavropoulos from 7 to 10 years.

10 The position of the defence is that this court sentence Mr. Stavropoulos to 12 years in the penitentiary, less pretrial custody credit at the enhanced rate of 1.5:1. Mr. Stavropoulos has been in custody since his arrest at the scene on June 3, 2019. The defence agrees with the ancillary orders requested by the Crown. The defence concedes that these crimes were motivated by hate entirely, or in part, and does not contest that Section 718.2(a)(i) applies here. And obviously the defence opposes the delaying of parole eligibility request of the Crown.

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The Law:

The relevant portion of Section 239 of the *Criminal Code of Canada* reads as follows:

239(1):

30 Every person who attempts by any means to commit murder is guilty of an indictable offence and liable (b) in any other case to imprisonment for life. Put

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5 another way, the maximum punishment available on one  
count of attempt to commit murder is life  
imprisonment. Upon conviction of attempt to commit  
murder, DNA is primary compulsory. There is a  
mandatory Section 109 weapons prohibition, and there  
is a mandatory weapons forfeiture order under  
Section 491.

10 The relevant portion of Section 733.1 of the  
*Criminal Code of Canada* reads as follows:

733.1(1):

An offender who is bound by a probation order and  
who, without reasonable excuse, fails or refuses to  
comply with that order is guilty of:

- 15 a) An indictable offence and is liable to  
imprisonment for a term of not more than four  
years

20 Section 718 of the *Criminal Code of Canada* reads as  
follows:

718:

25 The fundamental purpose of sentencing is to protect  
society and to contribute along with crime  
prevention initiatives, respect for the law, and the  
maintenance of a just, peaceful and safe society by  
imposing just sanctions that have one or more of the  
following objectives:

- 30 a) To denounce unlawful conduct and the harm done  
to victims or to the community that is caused by  
unlawful conduct;  
b) To deter the offender and other persons from  
committing offences;

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- c) To separate offenders from society where necessary;
  - d) To assist in rehabilitating offenders;
  - e) To provide reparations for harm done to victims or to the community; and
  - f) To promote a sense of responsibility in offenders and acknowledgment of harm done to victims or to the community

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Section 718.01 of the *Criminal Code of Canada* reads:  
When a court imposes a sentence for an offence that involved the abuse of a person under the age of 18 years, it shall give primary consideration to the objectives of denunciation and deterrence of such conduct.

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Section 718.1 of the *Criminal Code of Canada* reads:  
A sentence must be proportionate to the gravity of the offence and the degree of responsibility of the offender.

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The relevant portions of Section 718.2 of the *Criminal Code of Canada* read:

A court that imposes a sentence shall take into consideration the following principles:

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- a) A sentence should be increased or reduced to account for any relevant aggravating or mitigating circumstances relating to the offence or the offender and without limiting the generality of the foregoing.
- 30

- i) Evidence that the offence was motivated by bias, prejudice or hate based on race, national or

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ethnic origin language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or gender orientation or expression or on any other similar factor.

5 ii.1) Evidence that the offender in committing the offence abused the person under the age of 18 years;

10 iii.1) evidence that the offence had a significant impact on the victim considering their age and other personal circumstances, including their health and financial situation; or

v) evidence that the offence was a terrorism offence shall be deemed to be aggravating circumstances.

15 718.2:

b) A sentence should be similar to sentences imposed on similar offenders for similar offences committed in similar circumstances;

20 c) Where consecutive sentences are imposed, the combined sentence should not be unduly long or harsh;

25 d) an offender should not be deprived of liberty if less restrictive sanctions may be appropriate in the circumstances; and

30 e) All available sanctions other than imprisonment that are reasonable in the circumstances and consistent with the harm done to victims or to the community should be considered for all offenders with particular attention to the circumstances of Aboriginal offenders.

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Applying the sentencing principles to this case:

5 The court accepts the evidence it heard during the sentencing hearing and it accepts the report of Dr. Gray, as amended by him during his testimony. There is no objective evidence that the offender was under the influence of any substances at the material time, and I am not satisfied that he was.

10 Despite the overwhelming brutality of the crimes committed by Alexander Stavropoulos on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 in Greater Sudbury, there are some important mitigating factors.

15 Mr. Alexander Stavropoulos pled guilty. This clearly saved the community the expense of a trial. It saved the victim, the victimized witnesses, and many of the healthcare professionals who dealt with the victims, or the accused from having to testify and suffer the anxiety that often comes with being a witness and being cross-examined on difficult, traumatic subject matter. Relatively speaking, Alexander Stavropoulos pled guilty at an early date. He entered his plea of guilt and accepted all of the facts presented on the plea. Although the matter continued to take some time to work its way through the system, this allowed the witnesses, the victims, and the victims' family to know that he was admitting responsibility and not putting the Crown to its onus of proving the case beyond a reasonable doubt. Moreover, he pled guilty knowing that the Crown intended to apply to have him declared a dangerous offender.

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## Reasons for Sentence

5 Alexander Stavropoulos is relatively young. He was 25 at the time he committed the offences. He was born July 5, 1993. He was never married, he has no children, and he is not Indigenous by way of background.

10 Despite two unsuccessful applications to the Ontario Disability Support Plan, Alexander Stavropoulos, according to Dr. Gray's report dated October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, suffers from Major Depressive Disorder, moderate severity. He suffers from Alcohol Use Disorder, moderate, in sustained remission in a controlled environment. He suffers from Cannabis Use Disorder, mild, in sustained remission in a controlled environment. He suffers from other hallucinogen use disorder, mild, in sustained remission in a controlled environment. He suffers from some symptoms of Autism Spectrum Disorder, but does not meet the full criteria for diagnosis. He also suffers from Substance Induced Psychosis Disorder according to the report. Alexander Stavropoulos gave a voluntary inculpatory statement to the police giving the community, the victim's family, the medical professionals and the court some understanding of his thought process and rationale behind his actions. From the information before me, Alexander Stavropoulos has not been in trouble while incarcerated, he has been appropriate with the court throughout my involvement with him.

30 Although the absence of an aggravating factor is not mitigating, I have included some neutral factors

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5 here, because I believe they still are important. Alexander Stavropoulos participated in the court ordered psychiatric assessment with Dr. Gray so that the court may gain insight into his thoughts and actions. The court notes that this forensic assessment was completed within the context of a possible Dangerous offender application which was abandoned by the Crown.

10 Alexander Stavropoulos addressed the court and apologized for his actions. Some of the things he said when apologizing to [REDACTED] A.C. and her family through the court were that he regrets what he did, if he could go back and not do it. He knows he affected her and her family's life in so many different ways and that nothing he can say can ever make up for what he did. He hopes she and her family can recover from the trauma that he created. He said some other things that caused the court concern, but I will address that later in these reasons.

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Aggravating Factors:

25 Unfortunately there are several significant aggravating factors in this case.

30 Alexander Stavropoulos attempted to kill an 8 month old white female child. He planned it, he had been thinking about it for months. It was premeditated. He decided it was going to be that day on June 3, 2019. He left his apartment and had a coffee. He took the bus to a public location. He went into Home Depot and spoke to the staff and went to the aisles

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5 with the knives. He purchased a pack of four utility knives. He was looking for larger knives but he took what they had. He discarded two knives in the parking lot keeping two. He waited hours for the right little white girl to kill. He saw [REDACTED] G.M. [REDACTED] and knew she was the one. She was in her stroller with her mother and her 3 year old sister [REDACTED] E.M. It was mid-afternoon in a public place where many people and families are known to frequent. Alexander Stavropoulos knew he was going to have to kill her mother, [REDACTED] A.C. [REDACTED] first so that he could execute his plan to kill the young child. He targeted strangers who had done nothing wrong and nothing to him. He targeted them because of their sex being female, and because of their race being Caucasian. In the case of [REDACTED] G.M. [REDACTED] he also targeted her because of her age.

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20 The amount of brutal violence used was significant against the mother, [REDACTED] A.C. [REDACTED] and the eight month old child, [REDACTED] G.M. [REDACTED] The three year old child, [REDACTED] E.M. [REDACTED] G.M. [REDACTED] sister was in very close proximity when the premeditated attempts to kill occurred. There was a significant injury to [REDACTED] A.C. [REDACTED] the mother. She nearly died. It is incredible that she survived. She has suffered permanent damage to her physical health and to her emotional wellbeing. She has undergone significant trauma with life lasting effects. Alexander Stavropoulos had the specific, premeditated intent to kill the mom, and then to kill the infant female, Caucasian child. His motivation in whole or in part was hatred of white



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5 females as he felt rejected by them. His motivation, in whole or in part, was that he was incel, or an involuntary celibate. He was further angered that many white females were in relationship with non-white males. He chose this family, all strangers to him, because there was a young, white female in a stroller that he wanted to kill. Although the nature of the attack was unprovoked and random, it was focused on Alexander Stavropoulos's clear intent to kill a young white girl.

10 He indicated to Dr. Gray after the offence that killing a white child would have greater shock value. Killing a child imparts greater shock value than killing a woman. This is an attempt to terrorize a community by committing a crime so shocking that people take note. Society cannot protect itself from this type of unthinkable and brutally violent crime that is so random and based on such hatred. These crimes have ruined an entire extended family unit. Three generations within the same family have suffered great trauma and will continue to suffer for the foreseeable future. This is child abuse. Both to the child he intended to kill, and to the child that was nearby while a stranger tried to kill her mother and sister with knives in the parking lot of a craft store in the middle of the afternoon.

25 30 The lives of the heroic bystanders who helped save two lives that day are forever traumatized by the events and carnage they witnessed. It was without

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5 warning and purposeful. It was in public, it was in  
broad daylight. It was brazen. It was brutal and  
savage. It had significant and enduring effects for  
everyone involved, including the community. The  
level of cruelty, brutality, and unusual violence is  
shocking. The level of cruelty and callousness used  
by Alexander Stavropoulos is rarely encountered. It  
is the deliberate, premeditated, planned, purposeful  
10 infliction, of brutal, disfiguring life threatening  
injuries. There was a degree of planning and  
deliberation by the offender. He had been thinking  
about it for months. Alexander Stavropoulos's level  
of moral blameworthiness is extremely high. The  
moral blameworthiness for an attempt to murder  
15 someone is as serious as in the crime of murder.  
Here, there are two separate counts of attempted  
murder. He intended to kill two Caucasian females,  
one of them an infant, because of their sex, age,  
and the colour of their skin. These characteristics  
20 are immutable, constitutive and unchosen.

Alexander Stavropoulos was on probation at the  
material time with the condition to keep the peace  
and be of good behaviour. But more specifically he  
was bound by the following condition: "Do not  
25 possess any knives outside of your place of  
residence except: for the preparation and  
consumption of meals, or for the purposes of  
employment." He used two knives to commit these  
30 offenses while under these probation conditions.  
Moreover, while bound by these conditions, he  
purchased the two knives used to commit these

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premeditated offences. The purchase and use of the two knives, one in each hand, formed part of his plan to kill. That is aggravating.

5 During the months he thought about killing a white female child, he was in the intensive supervision stream of the probation office and he had access to a wellness worker. Alexander Stavropoulos has a prior criminal record for violence from 2018 where, according to his statement to the police after the index offences, he intended to kill someone or to commit suicide by cop. He used knives on that occasion on August 8, 2018.

10 Alexander Stavropoulos had the required intent to commit the first-degree murder of a female child and her mother. It is through several intervening events that his plan failed. ██████████ A.C. fought harder than he expected. He stabbed her several times after grabbing her hair. The first stab was to the back of the neck and then after that he repeatedly stabbed her to the back of the neck and head. According to the offender, she fought pretty hard. He expected her to go down more easily. The wounds were life-threatening for this victim. She suffered permanent physical injury as a result. He transected her vertebral artery on the left side. Blood immediately began to spurt out of the victim's neck. He tried to stab the infant. He punched at the stroller five to six times. The witness saw the child bouncing up and down in the stroller as Alexander Stavropoulos stabbed at her. She was covered in her mother's

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blood screaming and she suffered some physical injury: bruising, scratches to her leg and chest as well as a cut to her chin has left a scar.

5 The attacker was stopped physically by the heroic act of a bystander named [REDACTED] B.H. [REDACTED] who saw the violence and heard the screams of the victims. Alexander Stavropoulos thought that [REDACTED] B.H. [REDACTED] was possibly a police officer and he cut his own throat. 10 [REDACTED] B.H. [REDACTED] disarmed him and grounded him. The attacker kept reaching for the knives repeatedly. He tried to get up, tried to crawl to the knife. He tried to grab the knife from [REDACTED] B.H. [REDACTED] Alexander Stavropoulos was treated by Dr. Wharton from 4:57 15 p.m. until 5:12 p.m. and then discharged from the hospital and taken to police headquarters. His injuries were not life threatening. The wound was a shallow 15 cm cut to the front of his neck.

20 This attack permeated shockwaves through the northern community of Sudbury. [REDACTED] A.C. [REDACTED] lost her anonymity. Having been a very private person, [REDACTED] A.C. [REDACTED] saw and heard detailed information about her and her family on the news. [REDACTED] A.C. [REDACTED] parents remained 25 traumatized by the events. [REDACTED] A.C. [REDACTED] mother saw the bloodied body and clothing of [REDACTED] G.M. [REDACTED] who was screaming inconsolability, and the state of concern of her granddaughter, [REDACTED] E.M. [REDACTED] with lips trembling and tears in her eyes at the scene asking about her 30 mother. [REDACTED] A.C. [REDACTED] parents continued to worry about the lasting permanent effects of [REDACTED] A.C. [REDACTED] living with one less artery to the brain. [REDACTED] A.C. [REDACTED] husband,

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5 [ **B.M.** lives in constant fear of how this traumatic incident will affect his family. He cries and screams in the middle of the night. He suffers from anxiety, depression. He is nervous. He no longer feels safe in the community. He says that he knows that he will never recover from this.

10 [ **A.C.** is in an endless state of worry. She obsesses about the future, and how the events will impact her daughters. She worries about when **G.M.** asks about the permanent scar on her chin. She worries about what **E.M.** heard and saw on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 and how it will impact her future. At the time of the incident, **A.C.** wondered whether she would survive to see her family again. In the months after the incident, **G.M.** refused to sit with her and it took time for **A.C.** to win back her child's trust.

15 [ **A.C.** lost out on bonding time with her children during the family's recovery. **A.C.** experienced tremendous physical pain and emotional issues following the attack. She suffers from anxiety and has panic attacks. **A.C.** physical injury is not fully healed. She continues to experience physical pain. She worries about missing a major artery to her brain. She feels vulnerable and she worries about her health.

20 [ **A.C.** lost out on bonding time with her children during the family's recovery. **A.C.** experienced tremendous physical pain and emotional issues following the attack. She suffers from anxiety and has panic attacks. **A.C.** physical injury is not fully healed. She continues to experience physical pain. She worries about missing a major artery to her brain. She feels vulnerable and she worries about her health.

25 [ Bystander **B.H.** one of the day's many heroes, describes how that one event will forever be imprinted in his memory with an unfortunate vividness. He shared that the one moment in time has caused him weekly night terrors. He indicates that

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the vivid memory of the raw violence and viciousness of the attack on a baby in a stroller will remain with him for the rest of his life.

5 In attempting to determine a fit sentence for this offender the court is mindful of the principle of restraint in use of incarceration and other sanctions that deprive the offender of liberty. The principle that imprisonment should, within reason, be seen as a last resort, especially for Aboriginal offenders. I note that Alexander Stavropoulos is not an Indigenous offender. The court is careful to sentence the offender for what he did and not for what he may do in the future. The court considers the offender's opportunity for rehabilitation. The court is also aware that it should avoid unjustified disparity in sentence. Sentencing is an individualized process. It is specific to the facts and to the offender and to the gravity of harm done.

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20 I wish to thank counsel for the caselaw they provided. That is both for the defence and the Crown. There are no cases out there with these facts, nor this offender's personal circumstances.

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30 The court has also considered the Totality Principle to ensure that where a judge orders an offender serve consecutive sentences for multiple offences, to ensure that the cumulative sentence does not exceed the overall culpability of the offender. In considering whether the maximum sentence is appropriate, all relevant factors must be

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5 considered. A maximum penalty of any kind will by its very nature be imposed only rarely and is only appropriate if the offence is of such gravity and the offender displays sufficient blameworthiness. The inquiry must proceed on a case by case basis.

10 The maximum sentence is not to be reserved for the abstract case or of the worst crime committed in the worst circumstances. Comparisons to hypothetical worst-case scenarios should be avoided. The decision must be dictated by the principle of proportionality which is achieved by means of a complicated calculus whose elements the trier of fact understands best: see *R. v. M. (L)*, 2008 2 SCR 163.

15 The types of acts that attract a life sentence are those where it can be said that a specific outrage has been premeditated and/or repeated needlessly many times indicating a degree of callousness and a lack of feeling amounting virtually to a deliberate intent at terrorization, leading frequently to permanent injuries. There must usually be not only an intent to do the act, but an intent to do it in a sadistic way that will cause terror to the victim. The case must be such that the necessity of punishing, denouncing and exacting retribution from the offender justifies minimizing the interest of the offender himself when considering the factors applicable to sentencing. Where the seriousness of the crime would not itself justify the sentence, future dangerousness should rarely if ever be sufficient in itself: see *R v. Cooper*, 1997 117

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CCC(3d) 249 NL CA.

5 Sentencing is an individualized process. It is  
specific to the facts and to the offender. The  
protection of society is but one of many factors to  
consider on sentencing. Where there is a serious  
offence involving violence to a child, then general  
and individual deterrence must be the paramount  
consideration in sentencing. In this case, we have  
10 the premeditated attempted murder of an 8 month old  
infant girl. In this case, the offender chose to  
kill a child for a greater shock value. Children are  
particularly vulnerable. This aggravating factor  
necessitates the court to place the sentencing  
15 principles of deterrence and denunciation at the  
forefront.

20 When considering an appropriate sentence for  
offences motivated by bias, prejudice or hate, an  
offender cannot be sentenced for his beliefs. Those  
beliefs are however relevant insofar as they explain  
his actions and an offence which is directed against  
a particular racial group or sex is more heinous as  
it attacks the very fabric of society and invites  
25 imitation and incites retaliation. Racially  
motivated crime renders the offence more heinous and  
the sentence to be imposed in such a case must be  
one which expresses the public abhorrence for such  
conduct. In this case we are dealing with hate  
30 crimes. There is no uncertainty in that regard.  
Crimes directed at victims due to their sex, race  
and age. The offender reveals his motivation is



## Reasons for Sentence

being sexually frustrated and he introduces the term incel during his statement to the police shortly after his arrest.

5 The offender tells Dr. Gray in the months that follow his arrest that he is angry towards white women who were dating men of another race. He planned and set out to kill a white female little girl. Paragraph 718.2(a)(i) can be seen as an expression of Canadian social values of respect for diversity and preservation and promotion of multiculturalism. It is more than simply a reaffirmation of existing sentencing principles but a direction to judges to give substantial weight to this aggravating factor. Paragraph (a)(i.) largely speaks to characteristics that are immutable, constitutive and unchosen. This is a case where Sections 718.01, 718.2 are triggered based on the facts. The crimes qualify as hate crimes against females, hate crimes based on race and in the case of **G.M.** as child abuse. These are extremely aggravating factors which supersede and overshadow any mitigating factors in this case.

25 On these facts, and having regard to the significant aggravating factors, nothing less than a life sentence is fit. Having considered the facts, the mitigating and aggravating factors, the sentencing principles, the offender, and his background, the fit sentence for the attempt to commit murder on **G.M.** Count 1, is life imprisonment. No lesser sentence will satisfy the sentencing

## Reasons for Sentence

objectives contained in the *Criminal Code*.

5 This court further finds that the fit sentence for  
the attempt to commit murder on [REDACTED] A.C.  
Count 2, is life imprisonment to be served  
concurrently, no lesser sentence will satisfy the  
sentencing objectives contained in the *Criminal  
Code*. Moreover on Count 3, the breach of probation:  
10 the court orders a sentence of four years in the  
penitentiary, concurrent to Counts 1 and 2.

15 The Crown has asked that I consider delaying the  
offender's parole eligibility. I agree with the  
Crown that there are concerns with regard to this  
offender and his ability to manipulate the court,  
probation services, mental health workers, medical  
professionals such as nurses, doctors, and  
psychiatrists. In considering other factors, which  
are neither aggravating nor mitigating, the court  
20 notes that although this is a plea of guilty, it is  
clear that it was a very strong Crown case against  
Alexander Stavropoulos. He was disarmed during the  
crime and kept at the scene by witnesses until the  
police arrived. There is video evidence of him  
25 purchasing the knives. At the scene he told  
Constable Brett Burnett that he wanted to speak to a  
detective. At police headquarters, the accused  
provided a voluntary cautioned inculpatory statement  
to Detective Bortot which was videotaped. He showed  
30 no remorse. He repeatedly indicated that he was not  
remorseful. He shows no indication of being under  
the influence of substances. He denies being under

## Reasons for Sentence

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the influence of substances at the time. The statement was about 40 minutes in length, and began at around 21:18 hours on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, the date of the incident. Alexander Stavropoulos during the crimes, and for a period of time afterward, was callous and lacked empathy. He was clearly not remorseful during and after the attempted killings. He showed no remorse and repeatedly denied being remorseful when he gave his statement to the police afterward.

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This offender is minimizing his behaviour. In his apology directed to **A.C.** through the court he said: "no one deserved that sucker punch I gave her." Clearly we are not here sentencing this offender to two counts of attempting to commit murder because he sucker punched the child's mother. This is very troubling for the court and goes to his potential rehabilitation. Furthermore, during this same apology at the sentencing hearing, he indicated I apologize to **A.C.** **██████████** her family and everybody else who was so offended by what I did. Again, the court is very concerned about the minimization of consequences of this behaviour. What he did had the effect of undermining the safety of an entire community. It did much more than offend people.

The court finds itself unable to rely heavily upon his apology, as I am satisfied that it was motivated by self-interests rather than by genuine remorse. The court finds that he is minimizing his actions.

## Reasons for Sentence

5 This court finds that he is clearly manipulative, and will say what he believes he needs to in order to obtain leniency from the court. The court rejects that the motivation for his stated remorse is what he has done to the victims in the community. The court finds that his apology is out of self interest and self preservation. It is not genuine.

10 Alexander Stavropoulos has very little credibility with this court. There are multiple examples of him misleading healthcare professionals, his probation officer and the court. Alex Stavropoulos's mother describes him as having the ability to tell you what you want to hear and that his truths keep changing.

15 He appears to have lied to his Canadian Mental Health Association worker when he said that he moved to Sudbury partly to be with his girlfriend. He admitted to Dr. Gray that he did not have a girlfriend when he moved to Sudbury. At the time of his arrest in 2019 he told the police officers he had never been in a relationship, which was part of the reason why he committed that offence. The real reason that he was concealing was that he has very strong views against interracial relationships and that he wanted to get away from Toronto because it was too multicultural. He explained to Dr. Gray that he was not very open with his probation officer or the Canadian Mental Health Association worker because they were women and some of his views would be offensive to women. Alexander Stavropoulos did not tell his CMHA worker or his probation officer

## Reasons for Sentence

5 about his mood or mental health symptoms. In fact, he consistently denied any issues. He told Dr. Gray that he did not tell them because he just wanted to get his probation over with. He also felt judged if he told the truth about anything.

10 Alexander Stavropoulos told police officers on the day of the offence that his cutting his own neck was not really a suicide attempt, but rather a way to avoid getting shot by the bystander who intervened who he thought was a police officer. He later indicated it was a lie. Alexander Stavropoulos told police officers after his 2019 offences that what had happened at the bus station in 2018 was not a  
15 suicide attempt but rather an attempt to kill someone to see how it feels like. This is a different version than he offered in 2018. Although Alexander Stavropoulos now indicates that he is open to taking medication and treatment, the court notes that immediately upon release from prison in 2018, he stopped taking his medication. He also declined all services from his worker. Alexander Stavropoulos was able to successfully manipulate health care  
20 professionals. He met with Dr. Veluri on May 26, 2020 who felt that Alexander Stavropoulos seemed well in terms of his mood at the time. On that very day Alexander Stavropoulos attempted suicide by hanging.

30 Alexander Stavropoulos said that he is not very good at lying. This court disagrees. Alexander Stavropoulos admitted to lying about various aspects

## Reasons for Sentence

5 of his previous offences and about symptoms to some  
treatment providers in collateral records. Alexander  
Stavropoulos said to Dr. Gray that he is not  
bothered by interracial relationships anymore. The  
court does not believe this offender. Alexander  
Stavropoulos said to Dr. Gray that he is open to  
anything, but the court finds that he is simply  
saying what he has to in order to better his  
10 position and to manipulate those around him. The  
extent to which his beliefs were entrenched in him,  
the way his probation officer noted "the subject is  
extremely racist and prejudiced." And she switched  
him to the intensive supervision stream. He did not  
want to discuss his beliefs and values with the  
15 probation officer when she asked about them. He  
indicated that his triggers mostly involve white  
people as he feels angry when he sees interracial  
relationships. This motivated him to attempt to  
murder two people, strangers, one of whom was an  
20 eight month old baby. This court is not persuaded  
that he is not bothered by interracial relationships  
anymore. This court finds that he is saying what he  
believes will place him in a better position to  
receive a more lenient sentence.

25 At the time of these offences in 2019, he was seeing  
his probation officer and Alexander Stavropoulos did  
not like to discuss his mental health with her.  
According to the notes of his probation officer from  
30 March 20, 2019, he continues to present as  
noncommunicative and provides personal information  
sparingly. His probation officer on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019,

## Reasons for Sentence

5 noted that he presents as generally disengaged. Mr. Stavropoulos was not very communicative and it took much prodding to get information out of him. What he did talk about was not the truth. Although he had been thinking about killing a little white girl, he did not discuss his thoughts or views with his probation officer.

10 His score of +17 on the Violence Risk Appraisal Guide revised VRAG-R is higher than 79% of those offenders in this study population assessed to develop this instrument. This risk assessment tool suggests that Alexander Stavropoulos is at high risk to reoffend with another violent offence within five years of release from incarceration. Dr. Gray and the psychologists, doctors Tamaian and Fusco opined a high risk of violence based on their assessment of this offender. This offender has a strong reluctance to be open with supervising officers and mental health providers. He provides personal information sparingly and he lacks self disclosure. His risk factors are strongly interdependent. This is problematic especially when you consider his unwillingness to share his true views and beliefs.

25 The court is aware of this offender's ability to manipulate others. Alexander Stavropoulos has little to no credibility with this court. The Crown, during the sentencing hearing, took the court to multiple examples where the offender was lying. He manipulated others to obtain a more lenient sentence in 2018. He misdirects others and masks his true

## Reasons for Sentence

feelings to obtain an advantage or to avoid the negative consequences.

5 Section 743.6 of the *Criminal Code* gives the court the power to delay parole eligibility if the court is satisfied having regard to the circumstances of the commission of the offence and the character and circumstances of the offender that the expression of society's denunciation of the offence, or the objective of specific or general deterrence so requires, order that the portion of the sentence that must be served before the offender may be released on full parole is one half of the sentence or 10 years, whichever is less.

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Although it appears that I am making a case for why parole eligibility should be delayed in this case, I am not. I appreciate that Alexander Stavropoulos is 28 years old. I understand that I have imposed two concurrent life sentences upon him. He will be incarcerated or on parole for the rest of his life. I have to balance his manipulative nature, his propensity for catastrophic violence, against his youth and his potential for rehabilitation. I know that the Parole Board will have access to these reasons and to the exhibits filed in this matter, including Dr. Gray's 67 page report at tab 1 of Exhibit 7. I know that they will be aware of his ability to manipulate others out of self-interest. I have faith in the parole board and the service that they provide. I do not want to remove from this offender the incentive to be truly open with his



## Reasons for Sentence

5 service providers sooner, rather than later.  
Inevitably, this case will fall to the parole board  
regardless of my decision today. I prefer to leave  
an incentive for real progress to this youthful  
offender.

Alexander Stavropoulos: On Count 1, attempt to  
commit murder on [REDACTED] G.M. [REDACTED] I sentence you to  
life imprisonment.

10 On Count 2, attempt to commit murder on [REDACTED] A.C. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I sentence you to life imprisonment  
concurrent to Count 1.

15 On Count 3, breach of probation by possessing  
knives, I sentence you to four years in prison  
concurrent to Counts 1 and concurrent to Count 2

20 There will be a mandatory lifetime weapons  
prohibition under Section 109 of the *Criminal Code  
of Canada* on Counts 1 and 2.

25 For a period of the rest of your life on the charges  
of attempt to commit murder times two, you are  
prohibited from possessing any firearm, crossbow,  
prohibited weapon, restricted weapon, prohibited  
device, ammunition, prohibited ammunition and  
explosive substance.

30 There will be a mandatory weapons forfeiture order  
under Section 491 of the *Criminal Code of Canada* in  
relation to the knives seized.

32.  
Reasons for Sentence

There will be an order that you provide a sample of your DNA to the National DNA databank on the primary compulsory counts of attempted murder times 2,  
5 Counts 1 and 2.

While you are incarcerated, there will be a non communication order pursuant to Section 743.21 of the *Criminal Code of Canada*. You are not to  
10 communicate directly or indirectly by any means with the following individuals: [REDACTED] A.C. [REDACTED] G.M.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] G.M. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] E.M. [REDACTED] B.M. [REDACTED] L.C. [REDACTED] L.C. [REDACTED] R.C.  
15 [REDACTED] B.H. [REDACTED] C.B. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] J.D.  
[REDACTED]

The court has carefully considered the Crown's request to delay the period of parole ineligibility  
20 for this offender and the court declines to do so for the reasons stated earlier. Mr. Ludgate, the Crown, all other counts, can they be withdrawn against this offender?

MR. LUDGATE: As far as I am concerned, he is  
25 sentenced on a three-count replacement information..

THE COURT: No.

MR. LUDGATE: ...so if there are any other counts they should be withdrawn.

THE COURT: Yes, I have a seven-count information.  
30 He pled guilty on three of them. The other balance of the counts at the request of the Crown will be marked withdrawn.

## Reasons for Sentence

MR. LUDGATE: If there is any other information, Your Honour, that exists, they should be withdrawn as well. Because I do know there was a replacement information late in this case.

THE COURT: Okay, if it has been keyed in, we will find it and it will be withdrawn at the request of the Crown.

Alexander Stavropoulos, I said earlier that due to acts of heroism, at least two, possibly three lives were saved on June 3, 2019. Many people may think I was referring to **E.M.** the three year old, in addition to the two main victims of your crimes, but I was actually referring to you. By thwarting your mission to kill these two people, you will not have to spend the rest of your life knowing that you were responsible for their deaths. Instead you can focus on your wellness and work toward rehabilitating yourself and the possibility of maybe being released some day should the Parole Board be satisfied that you are not simply manipulating them.

FORM 2

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT (SUBSECTION 5 (2))

*Evidence Act*

I, **William Tzavaras**

*(Name of Authorized Person)*

certify that this document is a true and accurate transcript of the recording of

**R. v. STAVROPOULOS, ALEXANDER**

*(Name of Case)*

in the **Ontario Court of Justice**

*(Name of Court)*

held at **159 Cedar Street, Sudbury, ON**

*(Court Address)*

taken from Recording **4031\_crrmb\_20211215\_092322**  
**\_6\_Lishe**

, which has been certified in Form 1.

**February 11, 2022**

*(Date)*



*(Signature of Authorized Person(s))*