

Areas of Defense

[Maryland DUI](#)

[Maryland DWI](#)

[Maryland Assault](#)

[Maryland Drug Crimes](#)

[Maryland Theft](#)

[Maryland Armed Robbery](#)

[Maryland Gun Charges](#)

[Maryland Sex Offenses](#)

[Maryland Conspiracy](#)

[Maryland Fraud](#)

[Maryland Student
Charges](#)

[Maryland Security
Clearance](#)

[Maryland Criminal
Definitions](#)

[Maryland
Murder/Manslaughter](#)

[Maryland Driving While
Suspended](#)

NOVEMBER 23, 2010

[Another Guilty Plea Expected in Slaying of Principal Brian Betts](#)

A second suspect in the murder of Washington DC middle school principal Brian Betts is set to plead guilty in Montgomery County on November 18th. Nineteen-year-old Alante Saunders pled guilty earlier this month to murder, admitting to pulling the trigger and firing the shots that killed Betts in his Silver Spring home in April of this year.

Co-defendant nineteen-year-old Sharif Lancaster is expected to plead guilty to charges of robbery and use of a handgun in the commission of a felony in Rockville Circuit Court on Thursday. Lancaster, the second of four young men charged in relation to the murder of Betts, was originally charged with first-degree murder among other charges in the case. Deontra Gray and Joel Johnson, both 19 years old, have also been charged for Betts' murder. According to Lancaster's [Maryland criminal attorney](#), all four men initially denied responsibility for the shooting death of Betts and implicated their co-defendants in the crime.

The teens met Betts over a phone sex chat line, entering his home through a door Betts deliberately left unlocked after the chat. Montgomery County State's Attorney John McCarthy conceded that the teens likely killed Betts accidentally during the commission of a robbery:

"We do not believe that this was a case where the homicide of Mr. Betts was pre-planned prior to arriving at the home."

According to police, Lancaster's fingerprints were found inside Betts's home. Prosecutors say that Saunders entered the home, heading upstairs to Betts' bedroom where the victim was shot from a distance. At some point after Saunders went in, Lancaster, Gray and Johnson followed suit. A sentencing date for Lancaster has not yet been determined, but under sentencing guidelines in the plea, he faces between twenty and thirty-five years in prison for the charges to which he is expected to plead guilty.

This article is presented by Price Benowitz LLP, serving Virginia, Maryland and Washington DC. For more information, please visit our [Virginia Criminal Lawyer](#) and [Washington DC Criminal Lawyer](#) websites.