

## Zillyette sentenced, will not serve more time

By Jake Schild The Daily  
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Brenda Zillyette received a sentence of 20 months Monday afternoon after pleading guilty to third-degree assault and delivery of a controlled substance earlier this month.

Zillyette, 49, has already served 55 months and will not serve any more time. She had previously been convicted of controlled substance homicide in 2010 for the death of 18-year-old Austin Burrows.

Monday's hearing marks the end of a case that dragged on for more than five years.

Zillyette's 2010 conviction was overturned by the Washington State Supreme Court because the case's charging documents didn't specify what substance(s) caused Burrows' death. The court ruled Zillyette had the right to know what she was charged with in order to avoid being charged twice for the same offense.

During a new trial in 2014, the jury could not reach a verdict and earlier this month, Zillyette reached a plea agreement with the prosecution in order to forgo another trial.

The plea deal was agreed upon between both parties in order to "put the case to bed," Zillyette's defense attorney, Ronnie Soriano, said earlier this month.

Soriano said the agreement would allow Burrows' family to see Zillyette face some sort of culpability while she won't have to plead to a more serious crime.

Monday's hearing was brief and Zillyette did not choose to speak. Soriano told the court she has maintained sobriety since 2009. Grays Harbor Superior Court Judge Dave Edwards sentenced Zillyette to the agreed recommendation of 20 months.

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