

State supreme court to hear woman's appeal in case of fatal East Bremerton arson

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Darcy E. Veeder Jr. (Photo: contributed)

The state Supreme Court will hear the appeal next month of [a Bremerton woman serving life in prison](#) after being convicted of setting a 2014 fire at her twin sister's house that killed her longtime boyfriend.

Shelly M. Arndt, 49, was convicted by a Kitsap County Superior Court jury of aggravated first-degree murder for the Feb. 23, 2014, death of Darcy E. Veeder Jr., 37.

The couple had gone to Arndt's twin sister's house in East Bremerton to socialize and do housework. During the night, as family and friends slept, Arndt is alleged to have started a fire in the downstairs floor of the house, which then spread. Investigators testified they believe Arndt set fire to a beanbag chair.

Family members and friends were able to escape the burning house but Veeder did not wake up from the couch and died in the blaze.

In addition to the murder count, Arndt was convicted of several other counts for the people who survived the fire, including children. The family's dog, Chevy, also died in the fire.



Shelly M. Arndt (Photo: contributed)

Arndt had a history of domestic violence and fire-starting and had been previously convicted of abusing Veeder. However, [Arndt maintained her innocence in an interview](#) with the Kitsap Sun before her arrest.

"Why would I do that to my niece and nephews and sister?" Arndt asked.

Arndt appealed the verdict, alleging in part that she was not allowed to properly present a defense to the charges. Arndt's attorney, David LaCross, had contacted a fire investigation expert who cast doubt on the methods and conclusions of the county fire marshal and other fire investigators, which ruled the blaze an arson.

In 2017 [the state Division II Court of Appeals upheld Arndt's conviction](#), but the decision was split 2-1.

The Supreme Court, which is not required to review cases that are appealed to it, will hear Arndt's case on June 27.

Last year the case was featured in an episode of the Oxygen Network's true crime series "Snapped," which tells the stories of women accused of murder.