

Houston man sentenced to life for murdering woman

A Houston man was sentenced to life in prison on Thursday after pleading guilty to the 2008 murder of his former girlfriend.

Eric Shamon Bounds, 23, was convicted of shooting Candace Alexander, 20, to death in June 2008. Bounds was tried in the 400th District Court before Presiding Judge Cliff Vaccik.

According to Assistant District Attorney Jill Stotts, Alexander was a single mother who had dated Bounds in the past. On June 12, 2008, Bounds "lured Candace to a vacant home in the Briar

Gate subdivision of Houston where he shot her seven times. Bounds then drove away in her car - leaving her to die. Candace called 911 from her cell phone and named Bounds as the shooter, even spelling his last name for the operator."

Stotts said Alexander struggled to give the 911 operator her location because she didn't know her location. Authorities were eventually able

to pinpoint a cell tower her phone was using to get help into the area. However, police began going house to house to try and find her because they weren't sure which house she was in. Alexander was able to crawl out of the house, where she collapsed while still on the phone with 911. The Houston Police and Fire department personnel found her, but she died on the way to the hospital, Stotts



Eric Bounds

said.

Murder is a first-degree felony punishable from 5 to 99 years or life in prison and a fine up to \$10,000. After the jury had already been picked, the defendant changed his plea to "guilty" but asked the jury to determine his punishment. The jury deliberated 40 minutes before sentencing Bounds to life in prison and the maximum \$10,000 fine.

ADA Chad Bridges also prosecuted the case. Mark Racer and Scott Martinez represented the defendant.