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**BRONX WOMAN SENTENCED TO 40 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON
FOR FATALLY STABBING PREGNANT WOMAN ON HER WEDDING DAY
Defendant Slashed Victim's Throat; Tried to Pass Baby As Her Own**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx woman has been sentenced to 40 years to life in prison for killing her pregnant friend and stealing the infant she removed from the victim's mutilated body.

District Attorney Clark said, "The defendant betrayed the trust of someone she had known since childhood, murdering the victim on her wedding day and taking her child from her womb. For such a disturbing and gruesome act, she will now spend much of her life behind bars. The child miraculously survived and is thriving; we are pleased to have brought her and her mother's family a measure of peace and justice."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Ashleigh Wade, 24, of 4450 Monticello Avenue in Wakefield was sentenced today to 25 years to life for second-degree Murder and 15 years for second-degree Kidnapping, to run consecutively, by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Margaret Clancy. Wade was convicted by a jury on Oct. 5, 2017.

According to trial testimony, Wade, who was pretending to be pregnant, reconnected with childhood friend, Angelikque Sutton, 22, over social media. On November 20, 2015, Sutton, who was eight-months pregnant, stopped by the defendant's apartment to pick up some baby items before heading to her civil wedding service. The defendant slashed Sutton's throat and proceeded to remove the victim's uterus and cut out the infant. Wade claimed she had given birth to the baby when police later arrived.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Meredith Holtzman, Chief of Trial Bureau 20, and Julia Gordon of the Criminal Enterprise Bureau under the overall supervision of Nicole Keary, Deputy Chief of the Trial Division and Jeremy Shockett, Chief of the Trial Division. District Attorney Clark thanked Detective John Baumeister of the 47th Precinct Detective Squad and Detective Robert Klein of the Bronx Homicide Task Force.

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