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Wife found not guilty

Jury agrees with self-defense claim

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COVINGTON - A 28-year-old Independence woman will serve no prison time for shooting her husband, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down.

A Kenton County jury deliberated for two hours and 15 minutes before finding Alicia Bartholomew not guilty Thursday of first-degree assault.

It is a charge that carries a penalty of up to 20 year in prison.

Bartholomew took the stand on her own behalf to say she was a battered wife who acted in self-defense.

"I believe the truth came to light," defense lawyer Shannon Sexton said after the verdict.

"Through aggressive advocacy, and a solid argument, we were able to show the jury the truth. ... She had to protect herself in her own home."

He said the military, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, experts and witnesses all corroborated what Bartholomew said from the first day: It was an act of self defense.

Sexton and his co-counsel, Kirk Pfefferman, called six witnesses during the five-day trial.

"I couldn't be any happier for Alicia Bartholomew," Pfefferman said.

"This young lady told me her story on the first day I met with her, and it has been the same story since.

"Throughout the entire case, we had a story that was consistent, that pointed out a lot of holes in the prosecution's theory of the case," Pfefferman said.

Assistant Kenton Commonwealth's Attorney Leanne Isler told jurors during opening arguments that Bartholomew was a "scorned woman."

Isler said the defendant intended to kill her husband, James Bartholomew, after she found him at an American Legion Hall with his mistress.

Alicia Bartholomew went home and burned her husband's clothes before shooting him with his own pistol.

James Bartholomew, 30, was a U.S. Army sergeant and an Iraq war veteran.

The couple met while in high school.

He joined the military after graduation and Alicia Bartholomew moved in with James Bartholomew's parents until she turned 18, according to court records.

Their first child was born in 2001 and she was still nursing their youngest of three when she shot James Bartholomew.

There is an ongoing divorce and custody battle between Bartholomew and her husband.

Sexton said Alicia Bartholomew would like to relocate to North Carolina, but that the Family Court judge will have a voice in that decision.

"Now it is time for her to move on," Sexton said.

"She is getting her education. She is going to move forward with her life, whether that is in Kentucky or North Carolina."
