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PRESS RELEASE

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JURY FINDS MORGAN WOMAN GUILTY OF BURGLARY IN THE SECOND DEGREE

A Redwood County District Court jury found a Morgan woman guilty of Burglary in the Second Degree and felony Theft, County Attorney Jenna Peterson announced Thursday.

The jury deliberated for less than an hour late Wednesday, September 19, 2018, evening before delivering the guilty verdict around 7:15 p.m.

Rya Marie Sullivan, 38, was found guilty for the burglary and theft of an apartment located at Lakeside Manor in Redwood Falls that occurred on December 15, 2017.

According to the criminal complaint, video surveillance, and testimony at trial, the burglary occurred on December 15, 2017 at approximately noon. The defendant entered the victim's apartment, who had passed away on December 9, 2017, while the family was attending funeral services for the decedent without permission and removed several items including a laptop computer and silver ring belonging to the deceased victim.

"A funeral is a time to respect and honor life, not rob their apartment," Assistant Redwood County Attorney Rudolph Dambeck told the jury in his closing argument Wednesday evening. "The defendant was robbing the deceased apartment before the dust even settled on her grave."

Sullivan will be sentenced October 22nd at the Redwood County Courthouse.