

Ex-stripper sentenced in killing

by UPI

ANCHORAGE, Alaska -- Convicted Alaska killer Mechele Linehan described herself as a happy wife and mother and not the monster as claimed but was given a 99-year in prison sentence. Friends and relatives sent in messages of support, saying the former stripper, 35, was a caring community volunteer who helped the homeless and aged, the Anchorage (Alaska) Daily News said. But Superior Court Judge Philip Volland described the 1996 killing of fisherman Kent Leppink a "heinous crime" and Linehan, who was convicted in October of orchestrating the slaying, a cold-hearted killer and handed down the maximum 99-year prison sentence. Linehan and her boyfriend John Carlin III were convicted of killing Leppink after she had convinced him to make her the beneficiary of a \$1 million life insurance policy, with Carlin doing the actual killing. Carlin also drew a 99-year prison sentence. In the decade since the killing, Linehan married a physician, had a daughter, earned a master's degree in public administration and opened a cosmetic laser treatment center.

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