(Continued)

home, defendant initiated the attack on the victim, and that defendant's attack enabled Pannell to "get the upper-hand" on the victim. The court sentenced defendant to a term of 71 months to 15 years.

The evidence establishes that the victim threatened Pannell's children in Pannell's presence, enraging Pannell. When defendant woke up at 10:00 that evening, Pannell was still "ranting and raving" in the house. Despite knowing that Pannell was in an agitated state, defendant agreed to drive to the victim's house with the understanding that he and Pannell would "f--- him up." When the pair arrived at the victim's home, defendant initiated the assault by hitting the victim once in the face and once in the neck with the back of his hand. After the victim fell to the ground, Pannell punched him twice and began kicking him. In our judgment, a natural and probable consequence of a plan to assault someone is that one of the actors may well escalate the assault into a murder. . . . Pannell's anger toward the victim escalated during the assault into a murderous rage.

A "natural and probable consequence" of leaving the enraged Pannell alone with the victim is that Pannell would ultimately murder the victim. That defendant . . . left the scene of the crime moments before Thomas's murder does not under these circumstances exonerate him from responsibility for the crime.