

Killer of elderly neighbors gets death penalty

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BUNNELL -- A Palm Coast man convicted in the 2000 beating and stabbing deaths of his elderly neighbors was sentenced to death by a judge Wednesday.



Circuit Judge Kim Hammond upheld a jury's recommendation that David Snelgrove, 36, return to death row for his role in the murders of Glyn Fowler, 84, and his wife, Vivian, 79.

The jury voted 8-4 in February 2008 in favor of Snelgrove receiving the death penalty.

Snelgrove The court took into account Snelgrove's "somewhat limited intellectual function" and drug addiction but those circumstances simply did not outweigh the factors behind the Fowlers' deaths, Hammond said Wednesday.

In most cases, a jury's verdict and the defendant's sentencing are separated by a few months. But in this case, Snelgrove's sentencing was postponed after questions about his mental health required additional evaluations, said State Attorney's Office spokesman Chris Kelly.

Snelgrove broke into the couple's house to rob them to finance his cocaine habit. He beat and stabbed them 38 times and stole jewelry to pawn.

A jury in 2002 voted 7-5 in favor of a death sentence.

But the Florida Supreme Court reversed that sentence in 2005. Justices said jurors erred by having only one sentencing recommendation for two murders.

Hammond's decision Wednesday elicited an emotional reaction from the victims' friends and family. Snelgrove showed no emotion.

Pamela Norko, the Fowlers' daughter, said Snelgrove's fate was "a long time coming" but she and her family believed all the while he would be returned to death row.

"We're just so grateful for the decision," she said.

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