

Stepson faces death penalty for murdering retired Jacksonville policeman

Jury votes 7-5; sentence now up to judge

By [Paul Pinkham](#)

Story updated at 8:55 AM on Thursday, Sep. 10, 2009



Robert Earl Peterson

Jurors recommended the death penalty for a 45-year-old man who murdered his stepfather, a retired Jacksonville police officer, after luring him to a cemetery.

Robert Earl Peterson was convicted last month of first-degree murder and tampering with evidence. They returned to recommend 7-5 Tuesday night that Peterson should die for beating and shooting Roy Bryan Andrews, 64, in 2005.

Circuit Judge L. Page Haddock hasn't scheduled a sentencing date. He isn't bound to follow the jury's recommendation but Florida judges typically do.

Andrews, a retired Jacksonville Sheriff's Office patrolman, was killed at Greenlawn Cemetery on Beach Boulevard in August 2005, near where he worked as a drug counselor. Assistant State Attorney Richard Mantei said Peterson lured him there after pretending his car had broken down near the grave of Peterson's ex-girlfriend.

Peterson was angry because his stepfather had decided to cut him off after years of supporting him in the hopes that he would become self-sufficient. Peterson admitted he had received \$35,000 from his mother, the victim's wife, in the year before the murder, Mantei said.