

Judge sentences Michael King to death

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Michael Lee King

SARASOTA, FL -- A judge has agreed with a jury's decision and sentenced Michael King to death for the kidnapping, rape and murder of a North Port mother.

In September a jury voted 12-0 in favor the death penalty for King, who was convicted last August for killing Denise Amber Lee nearly two years ago.

DNA evidence and a 911 call Denise Lee made from King's cell phone tied him to the crimes. Lee's cries for help were heard on one of several 911 calls made regarding the abduction.

One motorist was able to describe the car and its location, but the call was never relayed to patrol officers looking for the 21-year-old mother of two.

Concerns about King's competency to finish the penalty phase of his murder trial surfaced during the trial, but judge Deno Economou ruled he was competent after hearing from two psychologists who evaluated King.