

Judge: Man accused in deadly North Tampa rampage competent to be tried

By [Jessica Vander Velde](#), Times Staff Writer

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TAMPA — The man accused of going on a Feb. 12 shooting rampage in north Tampa that killed a teenage girl is mentally fit to stand trial, a judge determined Wednesday.

Before the shooting, Andre Watkins, 53, was Baker Acted and given psychiatric drugs for intermittent explosive disorder, court records from other cases show.

But on Wednesday, the defense did not request that the judge make a particular ruling. Both sides simply asked Circuit Judge Kimberly K. Fernandez to rely on a doctor's evaluation.

Fernandez declared Watkins competent, clearing the way for Watkins' case to proceed. The state is seeking the death penalty.

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