

Orlando murderer is not mentally retarded, so he can be executed, high court says

Donald Dufour is facing the death penalty in a 1982 slaying

By Rene Stutzman, Orlando Sentinel

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An earlier version of this story reported the wrong IQ for Dufour.

The Florida Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that an Orlando man, accused of murdering five people and sentenced to die, is not mentally retarded and thus can be executed.

Donald William Dufour, 54, is facing the death penalty for robbing and killing a man in [Orange County](#) in the 1982.

The body of Zack Miller was found in an Orlando orange grove. The men had met in a bar earlier that night, according to trial testimony.

His attorneys had argued that because of Dufour's low IQ, he's mentally retarded and therefore the state is prohibited from executing him. He was tested several times but never scored higher than 72.

But after hearing evidence about that IQ, Dufour's childhood and abilities to care for himself and hold a job, an Orlando trial judge said he was not mentally retarded.

The high court decision Thursday upholds that ruling.

Dufour is accused of five murders, all of them within a few months of each other in 1982. He's serving sentences for three.

In Florida, he's facing the death penalty in Miller's slaying. He's also serving a life term in the slaying of Edward Wise, a west Orange County man who was robbed and shot.

And in Mississippi, he's serving a life term for the slaying of a [Jackson](#) man whose body was found in the same apartment as another body on Oct. 14, 1982.

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