



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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District Attorney

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 4, 2015

### **EDDIE NEALY SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR 1985 MURDER AND RAPE**

Assistant District Attorney Steve Wright is pleased to announce that today, December 4, 2015, Eddie Ricky Nealy was sentenced to death for the 1985 rape and murder of fourteen (14) year old Jody Lynn Wolfe.

In September 2013, a jury convicted Mr. Nealy and recommended a Death Sentence after hearing evidence that the defendant raped and brutally smashed in the skull of 14 year old Jody Wolfe, before throwing her lifeless body into a water filled canal.

During the penalty phase of the trial, jurors also heard that Mr. Nealy had committed another murder of a woman in 1988, as well as three other rapes, a robbery, and an assault on a child.

At the sentencing, Judge Arlan Harrell denied the defendant's request to reduce the death verdict and sentence him to life behind bars.

The investigation into Ms. Wolfe's murder had gone cold until Detectives with the Fresno Police Department submitted evidence to the California Department of Justice for further testing in 2001. New DNA testing was then used to link Mr. Nealy to the crimes.

Mr. Nealy will now be transported to Death Row at San Quentin State Prison.

ADA Wright would like to personally thank Detectives Craig Atkisson, Danny Martin, and Robert Schiotis, as well as the criminalists at The California Department of Justice for their tireless work in this case to ensure that Jody Wolfe's killer was brought to justice.

The Media may contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions.

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