

**News Release from  
The Honorable Sandra Doorley  
Monroe County District Attorney**

March 8, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Jury Finds Timothy Williams Guilty of Murder in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree for the 1984  
Murder of 14-year-old Wendy Jerome**

Rochester, NY- Friday, March 8, 2024, a Monroe County Jury convicted 60-year-old Timothy Williams of three counts of Murder in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree for the murder 14-year-old Wendy Jerome on November 22, 1984. Today brings the first conviction using Familial DNA testing in New York State.

On November 22, 1984, on the night of Thanksgiving, 14-year-old Wendy Jerome never returned home after visiting a nearby friend. When Wendy did not return home by her curfew, her mother, Marlene, called Wendy's friends before calling the police to report her missing.

The Rochester Police Department located Wendy's body on Webster Avenue near School #33. Wendy was brutally raped and murdered. The Rochester Police Department preserved the crime scene and began an exhaustive investigation.

The case went cold, but remained on the minds of investigators and prosecutors. As DNA technology evolved, testing was done on Wendy's clothes, items from the crime scene, and a vaginal smear.

Upon a thorough and detailed investigation and a DNA match, Timothy Williams was arrested for the murder of Wendy Jerome in 2020, nearly 36 years later.

The case was prosecuted by Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley and Assistant District Attorney Lisa Gray, Chief of the Appeals Bureau.

"Nearly 40 years later, I am proud to finally find justice for young Wendy Jerome," said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. "Wendy never was able to graduate high school, start a career, or have a family of her own. Timothy Williams lived as a free man for 36 years. I am relieved that he will finally face his gruesome and violent actions he perpetrated against this 14-year-old girl. I want to thank the many Rochester Police Investigators who worked on this investigation over the years which ultimately assisted in today's conviction. I also would like to personally thank former Assistant District Attorney and current County Court Judge, Judge Julie Hahn, for working on this case for many years, never giving up on Wendy. Finding justice for Wendy and her family, who have waited for 40 years, was truly an honor. It is my sincerest hope that Timothy Williams will never again know a day outside the New York State Department of Corrections for his heinous actions against Wendy."

“The family of Wendy Jerome have been waiting decades for her killer to be held accountable,” said Assistant District Attorney Lisa Gray. “With great assistance from the Rochester Police Department, the Monroe County Crime Lab, and the New York State Police Forensic Identification Unit, we were finally able to give Wendy her day in court. After November 22, 1984, Timothy Williams went on with his life and even moved out of Rochester. Wendy did not have that privilege. I am grateful that we were able to provide this resolution for Wendy and her family.”

Timothy Williams will be sentenced on April 17, 2024, in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Alex Renzi.

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