

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

April 17, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Timothy Williams Sentenced to 25 Years to Life for the 1984 Murder of 14-year-old Wendy Jerome**

Rochester, NY- Wednesday, April 17, 2024, New York State Supreme Court Justice Renzi sentenced 60-year-old Timothy Williams to 25 years to Life in the New York State Department of Corrections for the 1984 murder of 14-year-old Wendy Jerome. Timothy Williams was previously convicted by a jury of three counts of Murder in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree. Today's sentence brings the first case using Familial DNA testing in New York State to a close.

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 had been 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.

"After 40 years of uncertainty, grieving, and longing for justice, I am relieved that the family of Wendy Jerome can finally mourn her knowing that her murderer is serving a life sentence," said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. "Timothy Williams will finally face the despicable actions he perpetrated against this 14-year-old girl. Wendy's opportunity to grow up and live her life was stripped from her in the most unimaginable way possible. I want to thank the many Rochester Police Investigators who worked on this investigation over the years. With this case finally resolved, I must also thank former Assistant District Attorney and current County Court Judge, Judge Julie Hahn, for working on this case for many years and never giving up on Wendy. Today's maximum sentence was the only appropriate action. After all of these years, Timothy Williams did not get away with murder."

“Today’s sentence was a much-needed resolution for the loved ones of Wendy Jerome,” said Assistant District Attorney Lisa Gray. “I am so proud that I was able to assist in the prosecution of Timothy Williams and give Wendy her day in court. Nearly 40 years ago, Timothy Williams committed heinous and terrible acts that resulted in Wendy’s violent murder before continuing to live his life for 36 years, a privilege Wendy did not have. Wendy’s family may never feel closure because their loved one is never coming back, but it is my hope that they feel justice.”

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