

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



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Guilty verdict in brutal 1996 stabbing death of high school senior

A Suffolk County jury today deliberated approximately three hours before convicting Kalila Taylor of stabbing to death her classmate, Curtisha Morning in 1996 near Riverhead High School.

It was the second time Taylor, now 35, was convicted of second degree murder for the homicide. In 2004, an appellate court overturned her first conviction, ruling the judge in the 1999 trial gave jurors faulty instructions regarding DNA evidence.

Taylor stabbed the 17 year old homecoming queen 94 times, an attack provoked by the defendant's belief that the father of her child showed a romantic interest in Morning.

The trial began on June 11.

Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said Taylor will be sentenced by State Supreme Court Justice William Condon on August 22. She faces a prison term of 25 years to life.

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Defendants are entitled to a fair trial with the burden on the government to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.