

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



**THOMAS J. SPOTA  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

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**Sentencing Thursday for woman convicted a second time for 1996 Riverhead murder**

A 35 year old woman convicted a second time for the 1996 murder of a Riverhead High School homecoming queen will be sentenced today, Thursday, August 23.

Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said Kalila Taylor faces a sentence of 25 years to life.

In February of 1996 Taylor stabbed then-classmate Curtisha Morning, 17, more than 90 times in a jealous rage. The attack was provoked by Taylor's belief that her boyfriend, the father of her child, showed a romantic interest in Morning.

The guilty verdict on July 2 was the second time Taylor was convicted of the homicide.

In 2004, an appellate court overturned her first conviction, ruling the judge in the 1999 trial incorrectly instructed the jury to treat DNA evidence as direct evidence instead of circumstantial evidence.

"It is our hope this second conviction will provide the Morning family with some measure of peace and closure," District Attorney Spota said.

State Supreme Court Justice William Condon (fourth floor of the criminal courthouse in Riverhead) will sentence the defendant.

The court calendar will be called at 9:30 am.

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