

LAW & DISORDER: Jury recommends death for killer

The man had lured his stepfather, a retired officer, to a cemetery.

By [The Times-Union](#)

Story updated at 8:55 AM on Thursday, Sep. 10, 2009

Jurors recommended the death penalty for a 45-year-old man who murdered his stepfather, a retired Jacksonville police officer, after luring him to a cemetery.

Robert Earl Peterson was convicted last month of first-degree murder. Jurors returned Tuesday to recommend, on a 7-5 vote, that Peterson should die for beating and shooting Roy Bryan Andrews, 64, in 2005.

Circuit Judge L. Page Haddock hasn't scheduled a sentencing date. He isn't bound to follow the jury's recommendation but Florida judges typically do.

Andrews was killed at Greenlawn Cemetery on Beach Boulevard near where he worked as a drug counselor. Assistant State Attorney Richard Mantei said Peterson lured him there after pretending his car had broken down near the grave of Peterson's ex-girlfriend.

Peterson was angry because his stepfather had decided to cut him off after years of supporting him in the hopes that he would become self-sufficient. Peterson admitted he had received \$35,000 from his mother, the victim's wife, in the year before the murder, Mantei said.

Paul Pinkham