

Death sentence: Judge sends Daytona Beach man to death row for 2008 murder

By Kevin P. Connolly, Orlando Sentinel

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A Daytona Beach man convicted in the deaths of two people in February 2008 was sentenced to death today.

Circuit Judge R. Michael Hutcheson this morning sentenced Doug Matthews, 28, to death for the first-degree murder of Kirk Zoeller.

In May, Matthews was found guilty of first-degree murder for Zoeller's death and manslaughter for the death of Donna Trujillo. He was also convicted of armed burglary.

A jury recommended the death penalty for Matthews in May.

Hutcheson also sentenced Matthews to 15 years for the manslaughter charge and life in prison on the armed burglary charge, the State Attorney's Office said.

Both Zoeller and Trujillo had been stabbed to death at a North Halifax Avenue apartment on Feb. 20, 2008, according to a police report.

Matthews was taken into custody at another Daytona Beach home, having just changed out of his blood-stained clothing, the report said.