

# State to seek death penalty in Somer Thompson case

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Harrell

## Facts in the case

- **Oct. 27** | Hundreds attend Somer Thompson's funeral at First Baptist Church in Orange Park.
- **Oct. 22** | Clay County Sheriff Rick Beseler confirms that the body is that of Somer Thompson.
- **Oct. 21** | The body of a small child was found in a Ga. landfill where authorities were looking for Somer Thompson.
- **Oct. 20** | An Amber Alert was issued about her disappearance.
- **Oct. 19** | Somer was last seen wearing a cranberry colored jumpsuit with pink-striped sleeves. She is 3-foot-5, weighs 65 lbs and has brown hair.

By [Scott Butler](#)

State Attorney Angela Corey announced today that she will seek the death penalty against Jarred Mitchell Harrell in the rape and asphyxiation of 7-year-old Somer Renee Thompson.

The announcement followed the Clay County grand jury's four-count indictment charging Harrell, 24, with first murder, kidnapping, sexual battery and lewd or lascivious battery.

Judge William A. Wilkes accepted the indictment and set no bail for Harrell, whose next scheduled court date is Thursday.

Somer disappeared Oct. 19 walking home from Grove Park Elementary School on Gano Avenue in Orange Park. Investigators found her body after tracking Clay County trash to a Georgia landfill. On Feb. 11 they arrested Harrell in Mississippi on unrelated child-porn charges. But they knew Harrell had stayed in a home on Gano last October and on March 25 charged him in Somer's case.