

# Colorado Supreme Court throws out Robert Harlan's death sentence

**DENVER (AP) - A convicted killer whose trial jury studied the Bible during deliberations will avoid the death penalty after the Colorado Supreme Court threw out his sentence today.**

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Robert Harlan will now serve life in prison without parole for the 1994 murder of Rhonda Maloney. The high court says Bible passages including a verse commanding "eye for eye, tooth for tooth" could've influenced someone to vote for death instead of life in prison, violating Harlan's right to a fair trial. Maloney was a 25-year-old casino worker when Harlan kidnapped and raped her at gunpoint for two hours before killing her. Defense attorneys challenged the death sentence after learning five jurors looked up Bible verses, copied some, and talked about them behind closed doors. Rhonda Maloney was shot to death after nearly escaping. She slipped away from Harlan and flagged down motorist Jaquie Creazzo, who was taking Maloney to a police department when Harlan fired at her vehicle. Creazzo was paralyzed from the chest down. Harlan pulled Maloney from the car and left. Her body was found a week later under a bridge. Harlan admitted killing Maloney, but said he was confused because of cocaine, alcohol and rage.