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# Jury: Moore not guilty

## Case over after 10 years in jail, 3 trials, 7 days of deliberations

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Karen Tipton's daughters left the courtroom sobbing Friday after a jury acquitted Daniel Wade Moore of all murder charges in the 39-year-old housewife's March 12, 1999, stabbing death.

The jury deliberated for more than two hours Friday, its seventh day of deliberations, before returning the verdicts, acquitting Moore, 34, of four counts of capital murder and intentional murder.

After dismissing the jury, Morgan

County Circuit Court Judge Steve Haddock released Moore from custody. Moore showed no emotion. Sobs and whisperings could be heard from the area where his family sat.

Prosecutors and the victim's family left the courthouse immediately.

### Attorney elated

Moore's attorney, Sherman Powell Jr., said he is elated about the outcome.

"I'm glad it's over," Powell said. "I don't know what the jury believed, but there's too much reasonable doubt in this case. There are so many things that could have happened that have not been explained. There are no win-

ners in anything like this. The fact that it's over and done with is what's important."

Alabama Chief Assistant Attorney General Don Valeska said the verdicts were disappointing.

"The jury has voted, and that's our system of justice," Valeska said. "I never second-guess a jury, but I've never been so extremely disappointed than this because the Decatur detectives did a wonderful job in solving this case. The evidence was overwhelming. They arrested the right man."

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Daniel Wade Moore leaves the Morgan County Jail on Friday after a jury found him not guilty.

WAAY 31 courtesy photo by Brittany Woodby

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## Moore

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Assistant Attorney General Will Dill said, "The only perfect justice is God's justice, and we don't have that on this Earth at this time. I'm sorry for the Tipton family."

The state presented evidence that included DNA that expert witnesses said concluded Moore was the source of two hairs in the victim's bed and on a washcloth.

Police arrested Moore after he told his uncle that he was in the home when a friend killed Tipton downstairs at her home on Chapel Hill Road Southwest. Moore had been in the home five months earlier with his boss to work on the security system.

Haddock told jurors they did not have to talk with anyone and he had deputies to escort jurors from courtroom to their vehicles.

Moore had been in jail on the capital charges for almost 10 years.

The acquittal Friday ends the case for which Moore was tried three times. The jury in his first trial convicted him in November 2002, and Circuit Judge Glenn Thompson sentenced him to death. Thompson later overturned the conviction and sentence and granted Moore a new trial, but 14 months later, he dismissed the charges and freed Moore.

The state Court of Criminal Appeals then ordered Thompson to reinstate the charges.

Moore's second trial, last year, ended in a mistrial after the jury deadlocked.

The jury that freed him Friday deliberated longer than prior juries but did not appear to deadlock, Haddock said earlier in the week.

Moore checked out of the county jail shortly before noon Friday and left with his family.

Tipton's sister, Lauri Martin, said her family, including Karen's husband, Dr. David Tipton, and his daughters, Caroline, 17, and Catherine, 13, are distraught about the verdict.

"This (jury's verdict) is ignorance at its finest," Martin said. "I also think it was a clashing of the classes of people."