

# Supreme Court orders Alabama appeals court to review case of death row inmate



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The Supreme Court of the United States on Monday ordered the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals to review the case of a death row inmate.

The court granted the writ of certiorari for Taurus Jermaine Carroll and ordered the state appeals court to review his case.

Carroll, 39, was convicted in 2012 for the murder of fellow St. Clair County inmate Michael Turner in Sept. 2009. Turner was stabbed 16 times in his head, neck and body, and died in the prison infirmary.

Carroll was sentenced to death.

In today's order, SCOTUS cited the decision in an earlier case this year, Moore vs. Texas, where the court ruled a man was not eligible for the death penalty because of an intellectual disability. The order showed a Texas appellate court did not apply proper medical standards for determining an intellectual disability, and used "wholly nonclinical" factors. Read that [order here](#).

The Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals had earlier rejected Carroll's arguments that the trial judge in his case erroneously found that he is not mentally retarded. Carroll claimed an intelligence quotient ("IQ") test performed by a doctor indicated Carroll has "a full-scale IQ score of 71, which, according to Carroll, falls within what the Supreme Court of the United States considers the range of mental retardation."

The Alabama appeals court also rejected Carroll's arguments that the judge was in error when he failed to consider certain factors that would have made his IQ score even lower.

Carroll was already in prison at the time of Turner's death, serving a sentence of life without parole for murdering a woman in Birmingham's Kingston neighborhood. Betty Long was shot in 1995 in front of her daughter at the family's laundry business. The daughter's necklace and \$90 were taken in the holdup.

Carroll was 17 at the time of Long's slaying.

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