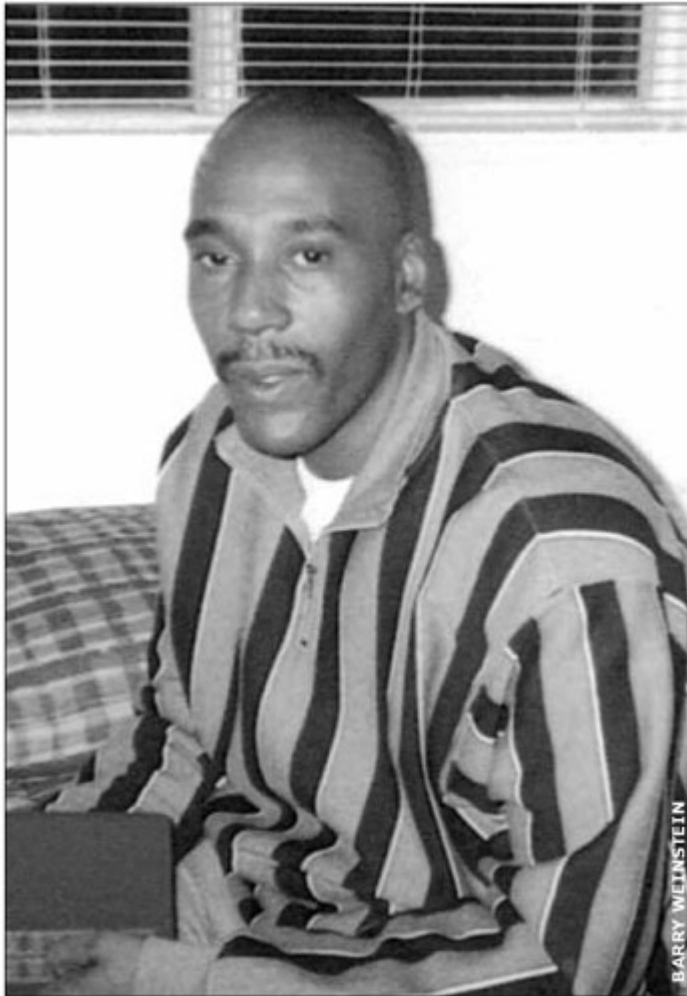


**Man admits to 1982 rape and murder
Real perp found in Earl Washington, Jr. wrongful imprisonment case**

by : Meg McEvoy

The man responsible for a decades-old Culpeper rape and murder pleaded guilty April 11, a local prosecutor announced. Kenneth Maurice Tinsley struck a plea deal that says he raped 19-year-old Rebecca Lynn Williams, and acknowledges there's enough evidence to also convict him in her stabbing death. The case caused an [innocent man—Earl Washington, Jr.](#)—to spend 17 years behind bars.

Williams was raped and stabbed 38 times in her Culpeper home while her husband was out and her two children were in another room. DNA found at the scene was eventually confirmed to be Tinsley's.



A guilty plea from Kenneth Tinsley puts an end to a 25-year-old murder case that was originally pinned on the wrong man, Earl Washington Jr. (above). Washington's wrongful imprisonment lasted 17 years.

Earl Washington, Jr., a mildly retarded Culpeper farm worker, was convicted in 1984 of capital murder and served nearly two decades of prison time and nine and a half years on death row. DNA evidence exonerated him in 2000.

Last year, a judge found that Curtis Reese Wilmore, the state investigator who interrogated Washington, fed him key details about the case to elicit a confession. A judgment of \$2.25 million was granted against the Wilmore estate (Wilmore died in 1994), but the Wilmore's appealed the judgment. Washington's lawyers recently reached a tentative deal with the state of Virginia to award him \$1.9 million in compensation for his time served.

Tinsley is already serving life in prison at Sussex II state prison for a rape in Albemarle County. Albemarle Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Rick Moore, who acted as special prosecutor, says he is "very satisfied" with the outcome of the 25-year-old case.

More C-VILLE coverage of the Earl Whashington, Jr. story:

[Washington seeks Payback](#)

Wrongly imprisoned man never compensated

[Washington wins \\$2.25M](#)

Jury awards restitution for false imprisonment

[Washington will seek official exoneration](#)

Police may have found real killer in decades-old rape, murder case

[Washington to get \\$1.9 M](#)

State will compensate former death row inmate for wrongful imprisonment

C-VILLE welcomes news tips from readers. Send them to news@c-ville.com.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.