



**For Immediate Release  
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### **ATTORNEY GENERAL MADIGAN RETURNS WHITLOCK CASE TO CIRCUIT COURT**

Chicago – Attorney General Lisa Madigan announced today that after a careful review of the case record, the Attorney General's office will not appeal an Appellate Court decision to overturn the 1987 conviction of Herbert Whitlock for the murder of Karen Rhoads.

The case now returns to the Edgar County Circuit Court, where the Office of the State Appellate Prosecutor must decide whether to retry Whitlock for the murder of Karen Rhoads, who was killed with her husband, Dyke Rhoads, in their Paris, Ill., home on July 6, 1986.

In May 1987, a jury found Whitlock guilty of the murder of Karen Rhoads. He was sentenced to natural life in prison.

On September 6, 2007, the Fourth District Illinois Appellate Court reversed a Circuit Court decision to deny a motion to reconsider Whitlock's case, vacated the conviction and remanded the case for a new trial on the charge of first degree murder of Karen Rhoads. The Appellate Court found that Whitlock received ineffective assistance of counsel at his trial and that the state committed Brady violations by suppressing evidence favorable to the defense.

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