



Riverside County District Attorney

# CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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## SENTENCING SET FOR SEPTEMBER FOR MAN WHO MURDERED WOMAN WHOSE BODY WAS FOUND IN A SUITCASE

MURRIETA – Today, July 1, 2013, a judge set a sentencing date for a man who was convicted last week of the murder of a Canyon Lake woman whose body was found in a suitcase.

Joseph David Dorsey, DOB: 8-17-84, is now scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Mark Mandio on Sept. 6, 2013, at 8:30 a.m. in Dept. S302 at the Southwest Justice Center in Murrieta.

Dorsey was convicted on June 28, 2013, of one count of first-degree murder. Dorsey faces a sentence of 57 years to life in state prison.

Dorsey murdered Christine Stewart, 47, of Canyon Lake, who was reported missing on Aug. 6, 2012. The cause of her death was strangulation.

On Aug. 8, 2012, Riverside County sheriff's Central Homicide Unit investigators received information that, three days earlier, Dorsey checked into a room at the Best Western on Poway Road in the city of Poway in San Diego County. Dorsey never checked out so motel employees took possession of property he left behind in the room, including a large rolling suitcase approximately 3 feet long and 18 inches wide and deep. Inside the suitcase, investigators found the body of Stewart, who was about 5 feet, 2 inches tall. Dorsey and Stewart were in a dating relationship at the time of the murder and he killed her at his Lake Elsinore apartment before heading to Poway.

The afternoon of Oct. 23, 2012, Dorsey, who is an American citizen, was arrested by Mexican law enforcement officials in Playas de Rosarito in Mexico and returned that day to the United States.

The case, RIF1203537, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Burke Strunsky of the Homicide Unit.