



Sentenced to Death

Two of the exonerations we published in August were of men originally sentenced to death.

[Kerry Max Cook](#) was sentenced to death in 1978 for a murder in Tyler, Texas. Released from prison in 1999, he was exonerated in 2024 after the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ruled that he had met the burden of demonstrating actual innocence.

[Larry Roberts](#) was sentenced to death in 1985 for a murder inside a California prison. He was exonerated in 2024 after several witnesses recanted and a federal judge ruled that prosecutors had failed to disclose exculpatory impeachment evidence.

Our main Registry, which contains nearly 3,600 cases, now has 142 of these death-penalty exonerations. Our pre-1989 database, which has 460 cases, has 101 death-penalty exonerees.



Kerry Max Cook
(Photo: Tyler Morning Telegraph)

We also published 18 other exonerations in August.

In 1993, [Edwin Ortiz](#) was sentenced to 40 years in prison for a 1988 murder in Chicago, Illinois, when he was 15 years old. He was exonerated in 2024 based on evidence that police officer

Reynaldo Guevara had framed numerous other individuals, and in this case paid a witness to falsely identify Ortiz.

In 2022, former police officer [Anthony Fox](#) of Jackson, Mississippi, was sentenced to five years in prison after he was convicted of manslaughter in the death of a man he arrested in 2019. In January 2024, the Mississippi Supreme Court vacated his conviction based on insufficient evidence. Subsequently, Fox was awarded \$75,617 in state compensation.

In 1993, [Charles Coleman Jr.](#) was sentenced to 110 years in prison for two sex assaults in New Haven, Connecticut. He was exonerated in 2024 based on DNA tests that excluded him as the source of biological evidence in the case.

In 2001, [Desmond McCarty](#) pled guilty to possession of narcotics in Chicago, Illinois, and was sentenced to four years in prison. He was exonerated in 2017 based on evidence that he had been framed by corrupt police officers.

[James Kelly](#), of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was convicted of first-degree murder in 1996. He was exonerated in 2024, after undisclosed evidence came to light that undermined a key witness and the state's theory of the crime.

In 1991, [Christopher Dunn](#) was convicted of murder in St. Louis, Missouri, and sentenced to life in prison without parole. He was exonerated in 2024 after the two eyewitnesses recanted their identifications, and the defense presented alibi evidence as well as evidence of the real killer.

In 1987, [Paul Clark Jr.](#) was sentenced to life in prison without parole for a robbery and murder in Highland Park, Michigan. He was exonerated in 2024 based on evidence that another man had admitted to the murder.

[Sharay Thomas](#), of Houston, Texas, pled guilty to a drug offense in 2013. She was exonerated in 2024 after the officer involved in her arrest was tied to misconduct in other cases.

[John Chinnici](#), of Bennington, Vermont, was convicted of armed robbery in federal court in 2019. Chinnici was exonerated in 2020, after a judge ruled that his trial attorney had a conflict of interest and Chinnici presented impeaching evidence against several witnesses.

In 2018, [Demarko Williams](#) was sentenced to 10 years in prison after he was convicted of escape in Chicago, Illinois. In 2024, he was granted a certificate of innocence after an appeals court vacated and dismissed the case based on evidence that no crime had occurred.

In 2002, [Claude Morings Jr.](#), an Army private, was sentenced to six months of confinement after a military jury convicted him of assaulting his two-month-old son based on evidence that the child's injuries resulted from shaking. Morings was granted a new trial but then was recharged with murder after his son died. He was acquitted in 2009 based on evidence that the child's injuries were not the result of shaking.

In 1996, [Angel Diaz](#) was sentenced to 44 years in prison for a murder in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2023 based on evidence that Detective Reynaldo Guevara coerced a witness to falsely identify Diaz as the gunman.

[George Worden IV](#), of Gallatin, Tennessee, was convicted of marijuana possession in 2020. He

was exonerated in 2024, after the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation said its testing methodologies could render inconclusive results.

In 2009, [Arvel Marshall](#) was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 25 years to life in prison in Brooklyn, New York. He was exonerated in 2024 based on a surveillance video, the contents of which had not been disclosed by the prosecution and that showed the real gunman.

[Clarence Rouse](#), of the Bronx, New York, was convicted of attempted murder and other charges in 2015. He was exonerated in 2022, after an appellate court ruled the trial judge had improperly prevented his attorney from presenting impeachment evidence against the two police officers who arrested him.

In 2019, [Rabbi Osher Eisemann](#) was convicted of financial crimes related to the alleged mismanagement of funds at a school he ran in Lakewood, New Jersey. After Eisemann received a new trial based on prosecutorial misconduct in 2022, a judge acquitted him in 2024.

In 2009, [Omar Moore](#) was sentenced to 34 years in prison for beating two men, one of whom died, in Chicago, Illinois. He was exonerated in 2018 after new witnesses said Moore was not involved in the attack and the surviving victim recanted his identification of Moore as the attacker.

In 1991, [James Marshall](#) was sentenced to 60 years in prison for sexually assaulting and murdering the 14-year-old daughter of his ex-wife. He was granted a new trial based on evidence that his confession was false and was the product of physical abuse by the police. He was acquitted at a retrial in June 2024.

With your support, the National Registry of Exonerations can protect the innocent by preventing false convictions.

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