

Fla. man gets death in 1996 double slaying

by UPI

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. -- A Florida judge has sentenced Howard Steven Ault to death for the 1996 abduction and murder of two young sisters. Ault, 41, was convicted of raping and killing DeAnn Muâ€™min, 11, at his home in Fort Lauderdale and then killing her 7-year-old sister, Alicia, because she was a witness. Ault had been sentenced to death in 2003; however, the sentence was overturned on a technicality involving jury selection. The Miami Herald said Thursday Ault is expected to appeal. His lawyer maintains Ault was mentally ill and had been abused as a child, and that abuse victims often become abusers themselves. Nevertheless, a jury recommended the death penalty in August. Broward Circuit Judge Marc Gold upheld the recommendation at Wednesdayâ€™s hearing.

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