

**TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE**  
**Dennis Watkins, Prosecutor**  
Repeat Violent Offenders  
SPECIAL REQUEST: March 7, 2024

**TO: GLENN SHELLER, Senior Special Projects Director, Office of Attorney General Dave Yost**

**FROM: Trumbull County Prosecutor DENNIS WATKINS, lead trial prosecutor, State v. Adams (2001)**

**RE: SUMMARY OF FACTS SURROUNDING STANLEY ADAMS' CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT OF HIS THREE MURDER VICTIMS**



Stanley Adams, at left, is in my view the personification of evil. He meets the classic definition of anti-social personality. He is a convicted three-time serial killer/child rapist and a suspect in other unsolved murders. He had served prison time for grand theft and gross sexual imposition prior to his 1999 murder spree. He took narcotic drugs like they were candy and lied and stole as a routine.

In short, when Stanley Adams becomes unhinged, his actions become larger, more brutal, and more meaningful in real time than reading any book definition of the word sociopath. He is the real deal!

After his jury trial, Adams was sentenced to death in 2001 for the Oct. 11, 1999, murders of Esther Cook, age 43, and her 12-year-old daughter Ashley Cook in their Warren, Ohio, home during a burglary. What did he do to his victims?

**VICTIM NUMBER ONE: Esther Cook**

Esther Cook was found by police lying face down in a pool of blood at the bottom of the stairs near the front door. The forensic pathologist who was at the scene and performed an autopsy on Esther concluded that she died of “multiple blunt-force

traumatic injuries and multiple sharp-force traumatic injuries” with “at least four distinct stab wounds involving the neck and head.” (While the murder weapon was not found, the pathologist concluded that the killer used “some type of tool that has an acute angle” and two prongs, such as a certain type of crowbar.)

### **VICTIM NUMBER TWO: Ashley Cook**

Police, after finding Esther at the bottom of the stairs, went upstairs and found 12-year-old Ashley’s body on the bedroom floor next to the bed. Her body was nude and posed, with her legs spread apart. A bracelet and two earrings had been placed on Ashley’s lower abdomen just above her vaginal area. An electric cord had been wrapped five times around her neck, and one end of the cord was in her hand. Dr. Humphrey Germaniuk, who conducted the forensic autopsy, determined that Ashley had died of “strangulation associated with blunt force trauma to the head.” Ashley also had multiple injuries and bruises to the genitalia as well as brain swelling, contusions to the head and lacerations to the mouth.

Also Dr. Germaniuk completed a rape kit examination during his autopsy of Ashley and obtained swab samples from all three of her body cavities. A BCI forensic scientist concluded that rectal, vaginal, and oral swabs from Ashley’s body tested positive for semen. (NOTE: Adams was convicted at trial of both oral and vaginal rape but not anal rape since anal swab DNA sample was not sufficient to show Adams DNA present, unlike the oral and vaginal swabs which were positive for Adams DNA.)

Moreover, two DNA experts testified that DNA swab samples along with multiple semen stain samples in several areas on the bed sheet were found to be consistent with Adams’ DNA, including one calculation that one bed sheet sample had the probability that the semen sample was a one in 21.1-million match for Adams’ semen on the 12-year-old child’s bed sheet.

### **VICTIM NUMBER THREE: Roslyn Taylor**

While awaiting his Feb. 19, 2025, execution date, Stanley Adams is also serving a 15-year-to-life prison sentence for beating, raping, and strangling to death 40-year-old Roslyn Taylor of Hubbard on Aug. 4, 1999, which was approximately nine weeks before he murdered the Cooks.

On Aug. 6, 1999, Roslyn's body was discovered by police after a resident reported a suspicious vehicle on her street. Roslyn's vehicle was found at the end of the street in Hubbard Township, Trumbull County, Ohio. The car had severe smoke and fire damage, and its windows were covered with soot. A fire of undetermined origin had ignited behind the driver's seat of the car. Roslyn's body was found on the passenger-side, lying on her right side, facing the rear of the vehicle. Roslyn's blue-jean shorts were pulled down to her knees and her tank top was pulled down below her breasts. Forensic Pathologist Dr. Germaniuk performed an autopsy on the victim and found Roslyn suffered multiple injuries to her head and body. He also documented defensive wounds to the back of Roslyn's hands, a blackened left eye, and a fractured hyoid bone. Dr. Germaniuk found petechiae, which in a situation like this, may be indicative of asphyxia, choking or strangulation. Dr. Germaniuk opined that all the injuries occurred in less than 30 minutes, perhaps only minutes before Roslyn's death. However, Dr. Germaniuk listed the cause of Roslyn's death as acute carbon monoxide intoxication from the set car fire.

Dr. Germaniuk further performed a sexual assault kit on Roslyn. Adams, in a statement to police, said he had been with the victim at the time of the murder, but had left her and had no sexual contact with her. Adams claimed he was not with Roslyn in her car and had no idea how her vehicle caught fire.

Two Ohio BCI forensic experts testified at trial that the rape kit from Roslyn showed sperm in a rectal smear from Roslyn's body and that sample matched Adams' DNA by a statistical probability of one in over four and one-half billion.

The judge at trial dismissed the aggravated murder charge because of insufficient evidence but upheld the jury's guilty verdicts for murder and rape.

### **CONCLUSION**

Therefore, Stanley Adams is currently serving Trumbull County sentences (having had all appeals exhausted) for two aggravated murders, one murder and multiple rapes involving brutal sexual violence involving all three sexual cavities of one woman and a female child along with other felonies. His prior prison sentence where he received his second parole was for gross sexual imposition that also involved a female victim. Obviously, Adams has a penchant for raping and killing women.

For sure, Stanley Adams has been proven to be one of the worst of the worst sexual predators and serial killers on Ohio's death row. He has been successfully avoiding his two death sentences now for over 22 years. It is time to carry out his just sentences; it is time to respect the families of his two victims so they can have some finality and see a "prompt conclusion to this case" as the Ohio Constitution requires; it is time that the Ohio Supreme Court-set execution date of Feb. 19, 2025, be firmly held and not subject to be re-set again!

**D-Day for Justice for Ashley, Esther and Roslyn is THEN (Feb. 19, 2025) not LATER or NEVER!**

For more information, contact Guy M. Vogrin, investigator/public information officer for the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office at 330-675-2485.