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THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY SINCE 1912

Jury: Moore not guilty

Case over after 10 years in jail, 3 trials, 7 days of deliberations

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Karen Tipton's daughters left the courtroom sobbing Friday after a jury acquitted Daniel Wade Moore of all murder charges in the 39-year-old housewife's March 12, 1999, stabbing death.

The jury deliberated for more than two hours Friday, its seventh day of deliberations, before returning the verdicts, acquitting Moore, 34, of four counts of capital murder and intentional murder.

After dismissing the jury, Morgan

County Circuit Court Judge Steve Haddock released Moore from custody. Moore showed no emotion. Sobs and whisperings could be heard from the area where his family sat.

Prosecutors and the victim's family left the courthouse immediately.

Attorney elated

Moore's attorney, Sherman Powell Jr., said he is elated about the outcome. "I'm glad it's over," Powell said. "I don't know what the jury believed, but there's too much reasonable doubt in this case. There are so many things that could have happened that have not been explained. There are no win-

ners in anything like this. The fact that it's over and done with is what's important."

Alabama Chief Assistant Attorney General Don Valeska said the verdicts were disappointing.

"The jury has voted, and that's our system of justice," Valeska said. "I never second-guess a jury, but I've never been so extremely disappointed than this because the Decatur detectives did a wonderful job in solving this case. The evidence was overwhelming. They arrested the right man."

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Daniel Wade Moore leaves the Morgan County Jail on Friday after a jury found him not guilty.

WAAY 31 courtesy photo by Brittany Woodby

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