



Riverside County District Attorney

# CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

PAUL E. ZELLERBACH  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

For Immediate Release  
Sept. 6, 2013

John Hall  
Senior Public Information Specialist  
Contact: 951.955.8662

## MAN SENTENCED TO 56 YEARS TO LIFE FOR THE MURDER OF CANYON LAKE WOMAN WHOSE BODY WAS FOUND IN A SUITCASE

MURRIETA – Today, Sept. 6, 2013, a Lake Elsinore man was sentenced to 56 years to life for the brutal murder of a Canyon Lake woman whose body was found in a suitcase at a Poway motel.

Joseph David Dorsey, DOB: 8-17-84, was sentenced by Superior Court Judge Mark Mandio at the Southwest Justice Center in Murrieta.

On June 27, 2013, a Riverside County jury found Dorsey guilty of one count of murder and the jury determined it to be in the first degree. The jury deliberated about half a day before reaching its verdict.

Dorsey murdered Christine Stewart Osborn, 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.

On 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.