

# Man resentenced in death of Lake County deputy



By **Bob Hazen**

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A man convicted of killing a deputy back in 2005, was resentenced to life in prison.

It got emotional in the courtroom when the verdict came down.

A family member of Deputy Wayne Koester started crying almost immediately when they realized the judge was sentencing Jason Wheeler to life in prison instead of the death penalty.

Wheeler had been convicted of murdering Koester and wounding another Lake County deputy during a shootout in 2005 in Paisley, but that verdict during that first trial was not unanimous.

Because of that and because of later court rulings, he was ordered to have another penalty phase of this trial, which started about a week and a half ago. There were several witnesses as well as Wheeler's mother testifying, psychologists and other experts testifying about his mental health and upbringing.

The jury, after deliberating for almost three hours, decided that the aggravating factors involved in the murder of Koester did not outweigh the mitigating factors, and for that reason, they decided that Jason Wheeler should be sentenced to life instead of death row.

Source: <https://www.wesh.com/article/lake-county-jason-wheeler-resentenced/40923630#>