

Roden found guilty in brutal murder of Seaside toddler

Avoids the death penalty but could spend decades in prison

By Katie Frankowicz
For EO Media Group

A Seaside man accused of torturing and killing his girlfriend's 2-year-old daughter was found guilty of murder by abuse, manslaughter, criminal mistreatment and assault on Monday, Oct. 31, but was acquitted of even more serious charges that could have resulted in the death penalty or life in prison.

Randy Roden, 28, could still spend the next few decades in prison, however.

He faced more than a dozen serious charges, including charges of murder by abuse and felony murder, for the death of Evangelina Wing in December 2014. On Monday, a 12-person jury found him guilty of these last two charges, as well as assault and criminal mistreatment charges tied to his abuse of Evangelina and her two brothers.

Roden was acquitted of charges that alleged he sexually abused Wing. The state had argued that certain injuries to Wing were the result of sexual abuse and that Roden was motivated to kill the child in order to cover up any evidence of this abuse and to ensure she didn't tell anyone.

Though he was also not convicted on the four counts of aggravated murder, which carried the possibility of the death penalty and included the accusation that he had tortured Wing before her death, he was convicted on lesser charges of first-degree manslaughter.

Prison time

These charges, coupled with the murder by abuse and felony murder charges, carry significant prison time, potentially up to 35 years — or at least that's what the state hopes.

"This man should never be around another child ever again," said Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown, who prosecuted the case for the state.

He said he was pleased with the verdict and plans to ask that Roden serve all his time on the various charges consecutively — one after the other — instead of overlapping the various sentences and serving them at the same time. He is already serving time for violating parole on an earlier coercion conviction.

Clatsop County Circuit Court Judge Paula Brownhill scheduled a sentencing hearing for Nov. 21.

The verdict

While Brownhill read the verdict, Roden kept his head down, sometimes running his hands over his forehead and the back of his head. At the beginning of the hearing, he and his lawyers discussed whether or not he should have his handcuffs off. Conor Huseby, Roden's attorney, said Roden



Randy Roden reacts as his verdict is read at Clatsop County Circuit Court in Astoria.

'This man should never be around another child ever again.'

Ron Brown
deputy district attorney

was in a bad emotional state and there were concerns he might hurt himself when the verdict was read.

Brownhill said the decision was up to them, and Sheriff's Office deputies ultimately removed Roden's handcuffs.

The jury was united on most of the verdict, the presiding juror who handed the verdict to Brownhill said. They were "hung" on one charge (a second charge of murder by abuse), but Brown and Huseby agreed to accept the verdict as a whole.

The jury had deliberated for close to two days after sitting through hours of testimony and particularly brutal evidence which included a blood-stained door and graphic photos of Evangelina and her extensive injuries. These injuries included two black eyes, a broken arm, hemorrhaging around her head, bruises and other marks. Both her mother, Dorothy Wing,



Randy Roden exits the courtroom after his verdict is read at Clatsop County Circuit Court in Astoria. Roden was found guilty of murder by abuse, manslaughter, criminal mistreatment and assault but was acquitted of other murder charges that could have carried the death penalty or life in prison.

and Roden were implicated in her death, with Dorothy sentenced to over 15 years in prison for manslaughter and criminal mistreatment.

Later, a juror told the newspaper the verdict was a "hard-fought decision."

Multiple times during the final days of the trial and after the reading of the verdict, Brownhill thanked the jury for their service in what she and Brown both called a very difficult case.

Back in his office after the verdict was read, Brown said he felt for the jury. He and other lawyers have a hard time with cases like this, he

said, but the nature of their work demands they routinely deal with the sort of things most of the jurors wouldn't necessarily encounter in their day-to-day life. Every day during Roden's trial, jurors had to look at the pictures in evidence and hear testimony related to the brutal death of a young child.

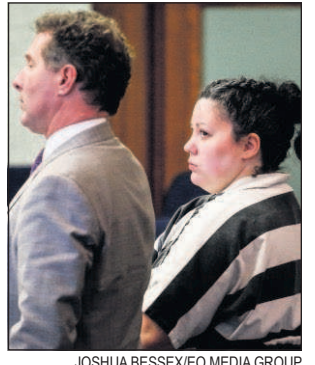
"And they're just doing their patriotic duty," Brown said.

Before dismissing the jury, Brownhill said court staff would look into finding counselors for any juror who needed to talk through the experience.

Wing gets 15 years in daughter's death

Pleaded guilty to manslaughter, criminal mistreatment

By Edward Stratton
EO Media Group



Dorothy Wing, right, looks over as her attorney, John Gutbezah, makes comments during Wing's plea hearing in January.

Dorothy Wing, the mother of murdered toddler Evangelina Wing, was sentenced Tuesday, Nov. 1, to more than 15 years in prison for first-degree manslaughter and two counts of first-degree criminal mistreatment.

Wing had faced a life sentence for murder by abuse and six counts of criminal mistreatment. She pleaded guilty in January to the lesser charges after agreeing to truthfully testify against her former boyfriend Randy Roden, who was convicted Monday in the murder of her daughter in Seaside nearly two years ago.

The couple called 911 Dec. 20, 2014, after discovering Evangelina unresponsive. An autopsy later found the girl had died from blunt-force trauma. Wing's two sons were also found badly injured and hospitalized. The two were later taken into protective custody and now live with family in California.

Prosecutors believe all three children were tortured, burned, bitten and caged in the months before Evangelina's death. Copious blood spatter was discovered around the apartment. The

discoveries have been described as one of the worst cases of child abuse in Clatsop County's history.

Roden was found guilty Monday of murder by abuse, manslaughter, criminal mistreatment and assault. He avoided more serious charges, including four counts of aggravated murder, for which he faced the death penalty.

Roden still faces up to 35 years in prison. He will be sentenced later this month.

Wing, who has previously admitted culpability in what happened to her children, said she had hoped that the stories Roden told her about her children's injuries under his care were true.

Circuit Court Judge Paula Brownhill admonished Wing for allowing the abuse of her children, before agreeing to sentence her to 190 months in prison.

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