

UNJAILED RAPIST TO BEGIN TERM - MURDER SUSPECT ESCAPED SENTENCE

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A rapist who never served his sentence and was free when he allegedly murdered two women was ordered back to the state prison system Friday.

Ten years after he first sentenced the man, Wayne County Circuit Judge Leonard Townsend said it again: **Michael Lee Anthony** must serve 15 to 30 years behind bars.

As deputies led him from court, **Anthony** told the judge: "I'll see you in hell. I'll come down there and visit you personally."

Earlier, **Anthony**, 54, expressed surprise that he was standing in front of Townsend at all. "I've never seen you before in my life," he told the judge. In fact, Townsend sentenced him for the rape and robbery of a 25-year-old Detroit woman in 1991.

It was unclear when **Anthony** will find himself in state prison because he is to have a preliminary examination Tuesday in Highland Park, where he will learn whether he will stand trial on two counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of two women whose corpses were found in his basement. Officials said **Anthony** will remain in the Wayne County Jail at least until that hearing.

One of the women he is charged with killing has been identified, assistant prosecutor Mike Cox said Friday. He wouldn't release details, saying authorities were trying to notify her relatives. The other woman's identity remained unknown.

No one noticed **Anthony** didn't serve a day of his rape-and-robbery sentence until after the dead women were found Jan. 12. Investigators said they believe **Anthony** killed them late last year.

He was free because of a wide-ranging failure of the Michigan law enforcement system.

A sentence order from Townsend was not in **Anthony**'s prison file, Michigan Department of Corrections officials said. It was not clear what happened, but officials said the case was mishandled by the court, the Corrections Department, the Wayne County Sheriff's Department and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

Corrections officials freed **Anthony** from state prison in 1996 after he served more than five years on an unrelated assault conviction. **Anthony** should have been held to begin serving at least 15 years on the rape-and-robbery convictions, prosecutors said.

Among factors that could have prevented the error: A statewide crime database accessible to anyone in law enforcement clearly lists his conviction and sentence on the rape and robbery.

In an interview with the Free Press this week, the woman he raped said she was shocked to hear from a reporter that **Anthony** never served time for what he did to her on an early Sunday morning in May 1991.

"This was supposed to stop. His violence toward women was supposed to stop with me," said the woman, who requested that her name not be printed. "I feel like I've just been raped all over again."

The woman, who was held captive in her car and raped repeatedly by **Anthony**, did not appear in court Friday.

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Caption: Photo

Michael Lee Anthony was told again Friday he must serve his 15-30 years in prison. He is also charged in the killings of two women.

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