

Second Darby murder suspect pleads guilty

Marvin Chaney, a partner with his half-brother Jess Rush in the 1991 abduction, rape and murder of Trudy Darby, has avoided the death penalty by pleading guilty to the crime.

Chaney appeared in Callaway County Circuit Court last Tuesday morning where he pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and kidnapping. Judge James A. Franklin Jr., presided and sentenced the 34-year-old to imprisonment for life without possibility of parole plus 15 years on the kidnapping charge.

The Camden County Prosecutor said the sentence would guarantee that Chaney dies in prison.

Chaney, the older brother in the murder claimed he was an alcoholic at the time and remembered nothing of the crimes.

On the night of January 19, 1991, Chaney and Rush, and probably two other men, dragged former Hickory County resident Trudy Darby out of the K & D Convenience Store east of Macks Creek where she worked. Evidence indicated they threw her into the trunk of their car, took her to a barn, raped and shot her.

Her body was found two days later in the Little Niangua River in Hickory County.

Chaney and Rush were both

charged with the abduction and subsequent murder of Darby following an investigation that spanned four years.

Darby had called her son just minutes before the abduction. When he arrived a few minutes later, she was nowhere to be found.

Rush was convicted for his role in the killing of Darby and is currently serving a life sentence in prison. In letters from prison to other prisoners Rush had provided grisly details of the murder.

Chaney was convicted of child abuse in January of this year by a jury in Morgan County.