

# Spence taken to Death Row

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David Wayne Spence took that long journey to the Texas Department of Corrections' Death Row Thursday, three months after he was convicted in the July 1982 stabbing death of Waxahachie teen-ager Jill Montgomery.

Capt. Dan Weyenberg and deputy Truman Simons of the McLennan County Sheriff's Department drove Spence to Huntsville Thursday morning. Weyenberg described the drive as a "very productive trip."

"(Spence) did a lot of talking on the way down. It was profitable," Weyenberg said. "It was a very productive trip for his two upcoming trials."

Spence was sentenced to death July 6 by a 54th State District



David Spence

Court jury for his part in the Lake Waco triple homicide case. He still faces two capital murder charges in the deaths of Raylene Rice of Waxahachie and Kenneth Franks of Waco.

Weyenberg declined to elaborate on his conversation with Spence "until we can get the other cases out of the way."

He did say Spence commented that whoever is responsible for sexually abusing the girls and repeatedly stabbing each victim deserves to die for those crimes.

Court officials said that Spence was not taken to prison sooner so that he could be given an opportunity to confer with his new attorney, Walter M. Reaves Jr. of West.

Reaves was appointed as Spence's attorney Sept. 12 after 54th State District Court Judge George Allen granted requests from Waco attorneys Russ Hunt and Hayes Fuller to be relieved of their appointments in Spence's remaining cases.

McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell has said that

his office is undecided if Spence will be brought to trial in the other deaths.

"We might bring him to trial just to be double sure, but first we have to finish with (capital murder defendants Muneer Mohammad) Deeb and (Gilbert) Melendez," Feazell said.

"A lot of time will pass between now and then, and it will depend a lot on the makeup of the Supreme Court and whether we anticipate any federal (appeal) problems," he said.

Deeb and Melendez will not be tried in McLennan County since their attorneys were successful in getting a change of venue because of publicity generated by Spence's trial.

Allen still is seeking a judge who will agree to accept a capital murder case. Deeb will be the next of the capital murder defendants to stand trial.

At least three judges have rejected Allen's request to move Deeb's trial to their cities, court officials said.