

*Remarks for the
Williams Clemency Petition Announcement
December 10, 2002*

I have made the decision to deny the clemency petition of Jessie Derrell Williams.

In December 1983, Mr. Williams was convicted of the brutal murder of 18-year-old Karon Ann Pierce. In the years since, his conviction – and the sentence of death – has been reviewed numerous times. The review process has now come to an end.

The Pierce family deserves justice, and justice will be done.

I ask for the prayers of all Mississippians to be with the Pierce family, especially Karon Ann's twin sister, Sharon Ann Alford, and with the family of Jessie Williams. May God have mercy on his soul.