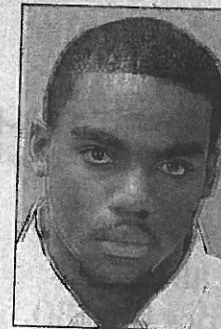


TEEN GETS LIFE IN 2011 MURDER



19-year-old shot man
in front of his fiancée
on Graves Mill Road

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A Lynchburg teenager was sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison Friday for his role in a murder that a Lynchburg judge said was among the most cruel and callous he had seen.

"We had a helpless victim. The shooting was unprovoked," Circuit Court Judge Mosby Perrow said.

Perrow sentenced Raheem Johnson, 19, to life in prison plus 42 years for the April 11, 2011 murder of Timothy Irving at Irving's apartment off Graves Mill Road.

Johnson initially was charged with capital murder, but a U.S. Supreme Court ruling shortly before his trial deemed it unconstitutional for a juvenile to receive a mandatory life-without-parole

sentence.

Virginia's capital murder statute mandates a sentence of the death penalty or life without parole upon conviction — both now unconstitutional for juveniles.

Johnson was 17 at the time of the shooting. He turned 18 years old 64 days later.

A jury convicted Johnson in July of first-degree felony murder, burglary with intent to commit a violent felony while armed with a deadly weapon, two counts of

» **Raheem Johnson**

was sentenced to life plus 42 years in prison for felony first degree murder and 7 other crimes in the April 2011 shooting death of Timothy Irving. Johnson's co-defendant, Dennis Watts, was also convicted of first-degree murder and is scheduled to be sentenced Friday.

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