

Advertisement



Get \$50 to spend in the Baby Store with \$250 purchase of qualifying items
[Learn more at Amazon.com >](#)

Member Center Alerts & Newsletters Jobs Cars Real Estate Rentals Weekly Circulars Local Directory [Place Ad](#)

Los Angeles Times

LOCAL U.S. WORLD BUSINESS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT HEALTH STYLE TRAVEL OPINION **SHOP**

BREAKING PHOTOS VIDEO CRIME OBITUARIES WEATHER TRAFFIC CROSSWORDS SUDOKU HOROSCOPES APPS

Search

YOU ARE HERE: [LAT Home](#) → [Collections](#) → [Verdicts](#)

Ex-Officer Is Convicted of Killing Lover's Husband

Courts: Onetime police chaplain faces 21 years in prison for manslaughter. Jurors reject prosecution's call for a first-degree murder conviction.

June 29, 2000 | From Associated Press



FRESNO — A former police officer and Baptist minister was convicted of voluntary manslaughter Wednesday for killing his lover's husband.

The courtroom was silent and Paul Hurth showed no emotion as the jury returned its verdict clearing him of murder in the Feb. 18 shooting death of car salesman Ralph Peter Gawor.

Advertisement



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Teenage Girl Convicted for Role in Actor's Killing
[March 17, 2004](#)

Judges Rarely Admit Error, Experts Say
[December 24, 2000](#)

Christopher Panel 'Problem' Officer Alleges Brutality
[April 30, 1998](#)

12 Mexican Mafia Members Guilty in Racketeering Case
[May 31, 1997](#)

COLUMN ONE : What Has Happened to the 'LAPD 44'?
 : Since the Christopher Commission singled out 'problem officers' in 1991, some have been fired, others promoted. A few have made the list a potent symbol of

Hurth, 44, who could have been sent to prison for life if he was convicted of murder, faces a maximum of 21 years in prison for the lesser manslaughter charge when he is sentenced Aug. 14 in Fresno Superior Court.

The four-year police officer and department chaplain testified that he killed Gawor in self-defense with his service weapon after going to Gawor's house to tell him of the sexual affair he had been having with Nancy Gawor.

Nancy Gawor, who joked with friends and applied makeup moments before the jury returned to the courtroom, showed no emotion as the verdict was read. She refused to comment afterward.

Hurth's 20-year-old son, David, said he was relieved that the trial was over, but was "not extremely happy" with the verdict.

"It's better than murder, so we're happy about that," he said outside the court.

Jurors said they decided in the first hours of deliberations Friday to acquit Hurth of murder, according to defense lawyer Ernest Kinney.

They spent the last three days trying to determine whether to acquit Hurth or choose the lesser charges of voluntary or involuntary manslaughter.

Hurth wrote a note to his lawyer saying, "I want to thank the jurors in this tragic case."

agency's woes.
October 15, 1995

MORE STORIES ABOUT

- Verdicts
- Murders -- Northern California
- Law Enforcement Officers
- Murders - Northern California

Prosecutor James Oppliger said jurors told him they believed some of Hurth's testimony. The voluntary manslaughter verdict means the jury decided that the killing was intentional, but the intent was mitigated by the element of self-defense.

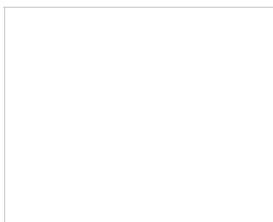
"Some people are arguing that he got away with murder," said Oppliger, who said he thought Hurth was guilty of murder.

"Certainly that's what I argued and certainly that's what I felt and feel now."

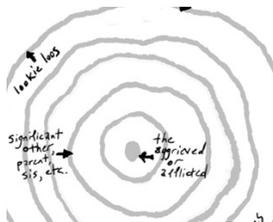
He said he would seek the maximum penalty for what he called "as aggressive a manslaughter as you can find."



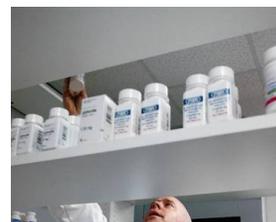
FEATURED



Judging penis size by comparing index, ring fingers



How not to say the wrong thing



Use a card, lose your privacy?

MORE:

Mayor feels a `sense of failure' in marital split

Seizure Led to FloJo's Death

His 104 scores make his case

Brutal Murder by Teen-Age Girls Adds to Britons' Shock