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Pender County Jury Convicts Man for Double Homicide

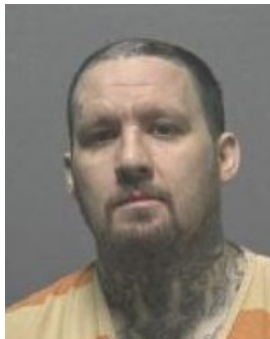
On June 3, 2026, a Pender County jury convicted Cody Camron Coffield of two counts of First Degree Murder the killing of Ricky Bullard and Roy Batson. Judge Quintin McGee sentenced Coffield to two consecutive sentences of life in prison.

On February 17, 2022, Coffield drove to Batson's property on Watts Landing Road and immediately started stabbing Batson and Bullard with a knife multiple times. Batson died on scene and Bullard died in the ambulance on the way to the hospital. Bullard was able to tell a witness before he passed that "Cody" did it.

After the stabbings, Coffield fled the scene, forcing Sharona Bettis to drive him. Bettis drove Coffield to Stag Road, where Coffield got out of the vehicle and ran into the woods. This resulted in a lengthy manhunt for Coffield by several law enforcement agencies. Later in the evening, law enforcement was able to locate Coffield in the woods with the use of a drone and took him into custody without incident. When Coffield was taken into custody, he had blood on his clothes and shoes, which was tested by the State Crime Lab and found to contain Bullard's DNA.

District Attorney Jason W. Smith, who responded to the crime scene at the time of the murders and handled the case through the verdict, presented evidence to a Pender County jury for over a week with co-counsel ADA Shirley Smircic. The jury convicted Coffield of all charges after just over an hour of deliberation.

"This was a senseless, unprovoked act that resulted in the deaths of two men," remarked District Attorney Jason W. Smith. "My office is grateful for the work of the Pender County Sheriff's Office for the work they did on this case and for the witnesses who came forward to testify so the State could hold Cody Coffield accountable for his actions."



Cody Cameron Coffield