

Judge grants DeLuna stay of execution

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HUNTSVILLE - Death row inmate Carlos DeLuna missed his appointment with death yesterday when a



Corpus Christi federal judge granted him a stay just 12 hours before his scheduled execution.

DeLuna, 24, of Corpus Christi, was to die by lethal injection before dawn today for the Feb. 4, 1983, murder of a cashier slain during a robbery at a Corpus Christi service station.

Wanda Jean Lopez, 24, had called police and asked for help

U.S. District Judge Hayden Head Jr. granted DeLuna a stay pending review of an application for writ of habeas corpus.

Dallas lawyer Richard Anderson sought the stay for DeLuna on the grounds that he was inadequately represented at his Corpus Christi trial and subsequent appeal.

Anderson also claimed the death penalty statute is discriminatorily applied to defendants who murder women as opposed to those who kill men.

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