

Andrew Allred: Death sentences upheld for Oviedo man who killed ex-girlfriend, best friend

By Susan Jacobson, Orlando Sentinel

7:15 p.m. EST, December 16, 2010

The Florida Supreme Court on Thursday upheld two death sentences for a man who shot his former girlfriend and his best friend to death in [Seminole County](#) in 2007.

Andrew Allred, of [Oviedo](#), pleaded guilty in 2008 to murdering Tiffany Barwick, 19, and Michael Ruschak, 22, a [University of Central Florida](#) student. He was angry because Barwick had broken up with him and had begun seeing Ruschak, the court ruling shows.

Allred, now 24, was sentenced to death for each of the two first-degree murders. He was sentenced to life for armed burglary of a dwelling and aggravated battery with a firearm, committed during the killings on Sept. 24, 2007.

The justices found that Allred bought a .45-caliber pistol several days before the murders and told a friend in an instant message that he planned to kill Barwick and Ruschak a month earlier.

Allred crashed a party at the victims' house, fired through a sliding-glass door, shot Ruschak four times and hunted Barwick down in a bathroom, where she was hiding, and shot her six times while she was on the phone with a 911 operator, testimony showed. Allred also wounded Eric Roberts, another roommate, when he tried to take away Allred's gun.

Barwick and Ruschak asked the [Seminole County Sheriff's Office](#) to arrest Allred about eight hours before the shooting, but a deputy told them there was not enough evidence.

Susan Jacobson can be reached at sjacobson@orlandosentinel.com or 407-540-5981.