



# Jonathan Barr

Jonathan Barr (15) was convicted of gang rape and murder of Cateresa Matthews on 2/13/97 along with 4 of his friends (Robert Veal (15), Robert Taylor (15), Shainne Sharp (17) and James Harden (17)).



## Evidence:

- There were no leads for over 10 months and then reports from a 15 year old stated that Cateresa was seen in the car of Veal and Taylor
- Written confessions by Veal and Sharp were used to convict all 5, but these three only had an 20 year sentence where Barr had an 85 year and Taylor and Harden had an 80 year sentence
- DNA evidence from the body of the victim only showed 1 set of DNA that didn't match any of the boys

**Conclusion: Barr served 14 years and was innocent. There were many problems with the conviction (DNA evidence didn't match and was "missing" until a court subpoena in the retrial, interrogation without lawyers or parents present, statements didn't match)**

<https://www.innocenceproject.org/cases/jonathan-barr/>