

Arkansas Take Action
P.O. Box 17788
Little Rock, AR 72222-7788

Dear Governor Beebe:

I'm writing to ask that you move to overturn the conviction of Damien Echols based on the following, which is included in the amended writ file in the Arkansas Federal District court:

- DNA test results that fail to link Echols or the other defendants to the crime scene; in light of the prosecution claim that Echols sodomized the victims, the lack of his DNA at the crime scene is exculpatory itself.
- DNA test results showing that a hair found in the ligature of one of the victims matches Terry Hobbs, the stepfather of another one of the victims.
- DNA test results showing foreign DNA – from someone other than Echols or the two other men who were convicted – on the penises of two of the victims.
- DNA test results matching a hair at the crime scene to a man who was with Terry Hobbs on the day of the crime. This places Hobbs at the scene of the crime, since it refutes any theory that the Hobbs hair (found in the ligature of one of the victims) was there before the crime.
- Scientific analysis from some of the nation's leading forensics experts, stating that wounds on the victims' bodies were caused by animals at the crime scene – not by knives used by the perpetrators, as the prosecution claimed. These wounds were the centerpieces of the prosecution's case, and evidence was presented that a knife recovered from a lake near one defendant's home caused the wounds. The conclusive expert analysis showing that animals caused the wounds after the victims died also completely undercuts the testimony of a jailhouse informant (who testified about Echols using a knife to cause the wounds) and a discredited "expert" who testified that the knife wounds were part of a Satanic ritual.
- Sworn affidavits outlining new evidence uncovered by Pam Hobbs (the ex-wife of Terry Hobbs) who found a knife in Terry Hobbs' drawer that her son (one of the victims) had carried with him at all times. After her son was killed, the knife was not among his personal effects that police gave to the Hobbs families, and Pam Hobbs always assumed that her son's murderer had taken it during the crime.
- A sworn affidavit that refutes hearsay evidence from Echols' trial. The mother of one of two girls who testified that they overheard Echols admit to the crime at a softball game now says that Echols' statement was not serious and that neither she nor her daughter believes he committed the crime.

Not only am I asking that you recommend overturning the conviction of Damien Echols, I am asking that you expedite the process that will exonerate Jason Baldwin and Jessie Misskelley. To keep these young men in prison for any longer than necessary is a disgrace to the state of Arkansas.

Most sincerely,