

Sentencing Hearing Script

Runs 1:18 • Tape Counter Time: 27:36

Video	Audio
<p>Gardner walking into courtroom</p> <p>Cutaways of audience</p> <p>Alyce in front of judge</p>	<p>24-year-old Joseph Gardner was sentenced to almost 30 years in prison today for the strangulation murder of Seattle businessman David Loucks. Because Gardner pleaded guilty to the crime, there was no trial, just an emotional hearing to determine his penalty. His distraught family and friends pleaded for a tough sentence, the victim's wife telling the judge that two lives were lost the night David Loucks died.</p>
<p>SOT: ALYCE LOUCKS (covered)</p>	<p>THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT DAVID IS NOW FREE FROM HIS PAIN, BUT I MUST LIVE WITH MINE EVERYDAY FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.</p>
<p>Photo of David Loucks</p> <p>File of crime scene.</p>	<p>David Loucks was 34 years old when he was killed in March 1995 during a burglary at his North Seattle recording studio.</p> <p>Authorities said he died of asphyxiation after being beaten, bound and gagged by two intruders, who stole professional audio equipment from the studio.</p>
<p>Gardner crying</p> <p>Court reporters</p>	<p>Today in court, Gardner appeared to show remorse for his crime—at times, wiping away tears. But he did not ask the judge for mercy.</p>
<p>SOT: JOSEPH GARDNER</p>	<p>I'M WILLING TO ACCEPT WHATEVER YOU GIVE ME.</p>
<p>Gardner being handcuffed, judge, audience</p>	<p>Gardner could have faced a maximum sentence of life in prison. His lawyer asked for 25 years, but the judge sent him away for almost 30, saying she would have been even tougher if Gardner had not agreed to testify against his accomplice.</p>