



NEW MEXICO
**LAW OFFICES OF THE
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For immediate release

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Nehemiah Griego's attorney responds to case ruling

NM Supreme Court declines cruel and unusual punishment argument

SANTA FE, NM — The state Supreme Court today issued a ruling that in New Mexico, three life sentences for crimes committed as a child is not cruel and unusual punishment, assuring Nehemiah Griego, who killed his parents and siblings in 2013, will stay in prison his entire adult life. Griego's attorney, appellate defender Allison Jaramillo with the state Law Offices of the Public Defender, argued this amounts to cruel and unusual punishment.

"It is easy to give up on children who commit terrible crimes and write them off as hopeless. But the truth is that these crimes are rooted in trauma and mental illness and many of the children involved can and will eventually be rehabilitated. Instead of offering this chance for Nehemiah by finding his three life sentences to be cruel and unusual punishment, the Supreme Court's decision means that he will spend his life in prison for crimes he committed as a child. New Mexico should protect children from the cruel fate Nehemiah is now facing, not give up on them," Jaramillo said following this morning's release of the Court's ruling.

Griego's legal team is meeting to determine the most appropriate next step in his case.

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