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Iowa court to review sentence in 1993 killing

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DES MOINES, Iowa

The Iowa Supreme Court will hear arguments in the case of a woman sentenced as a teenager to life in prison without parole for killing a retired librarian in Waterloo.

Ruthann Veal was 14 when she was tried as an adult for killing Catherine Haynes in 1993.

The court will hear arguments on Tuesday on whether Veal, now 31, can challenge her sentence, long after the three-year window for such appeals has closed.

Prosecutors say Veal filed her challenge too late, in February 2008.

Veal's attorney, Bryan Stevenson, claims a 2005 U.S. Supreme Court death penalty ruling changed the law that applies to Veal's case.

Last summer, a state appeals court turned down Veal's challenge. The Iowa Supreme Court then agreed to review the case.

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