

*Jackie Lacey*  
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NEWS RELEASE

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Jan. 9, 2015

**Woman Sentenced to 15 Years to Life in Prison  
For Murder of 90-Year-Old Father in Bellflower**

A woman was sentenced today to 15 years to life in prison for killing her 90-year-old father nearly seven years ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jurors found Linda Sue Copeland, 63, guilty of second-degree murder in November. Copeland killed Ralph Stofleth sometime between Feb. 1 and Feb. 8, 2008.

His body was found three months later covered with sheets and cardboard and partially buried near a shed in the backyard of a home where Copeland lived with her father. Neighbors called authorities after they hadn't seen Stofleth for three months.

Deputy District Attorney Tina Hooks of the Elder Abuse Section said that evidence presented at trial showed that Copeland continued to collect her father's retirement benefits even after he was killed.

Case VA105792 was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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**About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety.