

Geneva County man denied parole

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A Kinston man was denied parole on Wednesday after he was convicted of manslaughter two years ago over what authorities have called a dispute over a woman.

Matthew Joseph Leske, 22, went before the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles on Wednesday.

According to Geneva County District Attorney Kirke Adams, Leske was sentenced to serve 12 years in prison in June 2009, after he was convicted of manslaughter in the death of 21-year-old Brent Cook on Dec. 26, 2007.

Leske is serving that sentence at Bibb County Correctional Facility in Brent, according to the Alabama Department of Corrections. His release date is set

for March 27, 2013.

Adams, who attended the hearing with members of Cook's family and with Victims of Crime and Leniency (V.O.C.A.L.), said Leske shot Cook during a dispute over a woman.

Adams said members of Leske's family also attended.

According to *Dothan Eagle* archives, Leske's attorney, John Knowles, argued in 2009 that the shooting was in self-defense.

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Kirke Adams,
Geneva County District Attorney

Adams said local district attorneys have for years followed up on cases in which a person was convicted of a violent crime to assure the person is not released before his or her sentence is completed.

"With many non-violent offenders unfortunately being released from prison early, I believe the district attorneys in this area have committed to making sure that violent offenders are not released until they have served their time," Adams said.