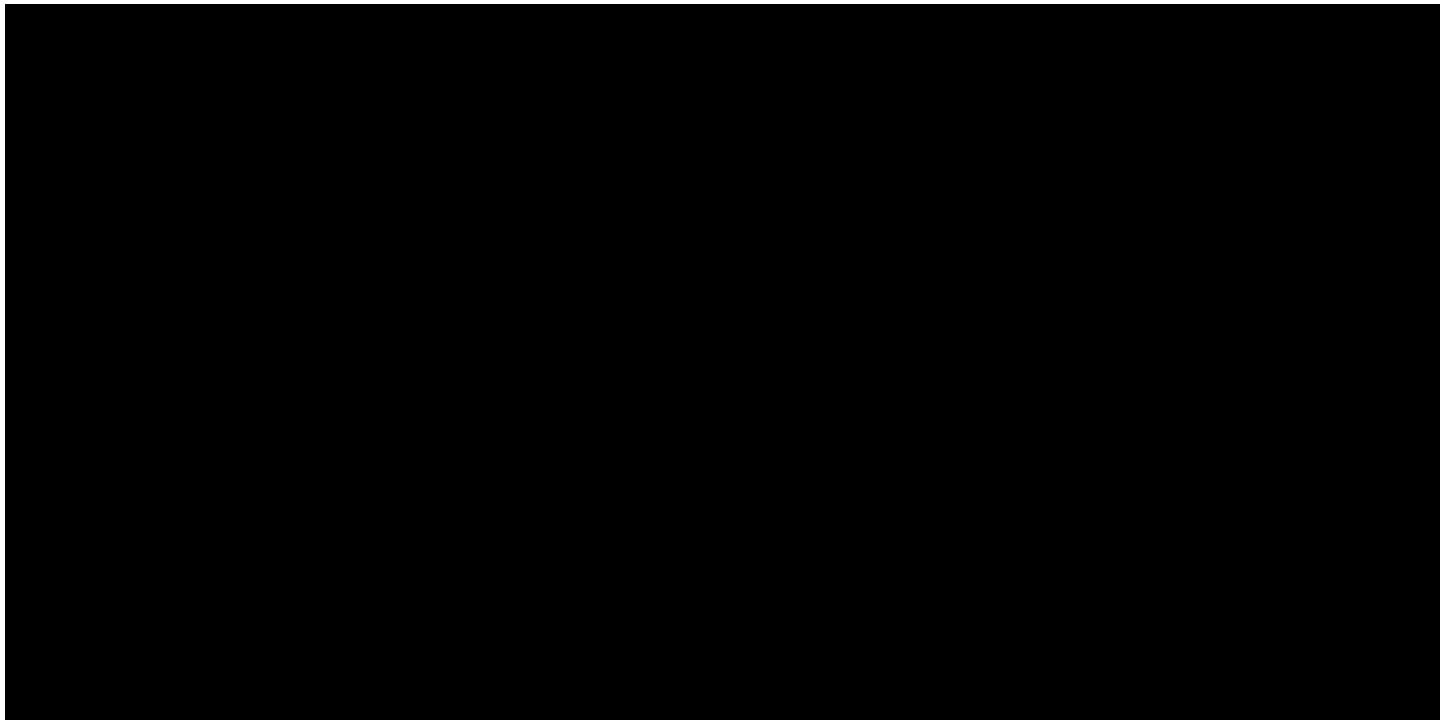




**CLOSINGS:** There are currently 3 active closings or delays



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## In death, Hernandez's murder conviction likely to be tossed



Updated: 6:09 PM EDT Apr 19, 2017

**BOSTON** — In death, Aaron Hernandez may not be a guilty man in the eyes of the law.

Under a long-standing Massachusetts legal principle, courts customarily vacate the convictions of defendants who die before their appeals are heard.

Hernandez, a former NFL star, was convicted and sentenced to life in prison for the 2013 murder of Odin Lloyd, a semi-professional football player who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiance.

Lloyd's family is in the midst of a wrongful death suit.



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"She believes this was just another form of justice. She feels terrible for all those innocent people affected," said Ursula Ward's wrongful death attorney Doug Sheff.

After Hernandez's conviction in her son's death, Ward said she forgave him. She sued civilly and is now waiting for a date to determine damages.

"We have a summary judgment motion that was allowed months ago that already established liability in this case. So we are hopeful and fully expect to be able to move ahead on the damages portion of the case," Sheff said.

Massachusetts prison officials said Hernandez was found hanging in his prison cell early Wednesday. His death came less than a week after he acquitted of murder charges in the shooting deaths of two men in Boston in 2012.

Hernandez's attorneys can move to have the conviction in the Lloyd case erased, said Martin Healy, chief legal counsel for the Massachusetts Bar Association.

"For all intent and practical purposes, Aaron Hernandez will die an innocent man, but the court of public opinion may think

differently," said Healy.

The legal principle is called "abatement ab initio," or "from the beginning." It holds that is unfair to the defendant or to his or her survivors if a conviction is allowed to stand before they had a chance to clear their names on appeal, in case some kind of error or other injustice was determined to have occurred at trial, Healy said.

"It's a surprising result for the public to understand," he added.

All first-degree murder convictions in Massachusetts trigger an automatic appeal. Hernandez's appeal had not yet been heard by the state's high court.

Gregg Miliote, a spokesman for the district attorney's office which prosecuted the Lloyd case, would not comment on the possibility of the conviction being vacated.

Removing a conviction after the death of a high-profile defendant is not without precedent in recent state history.

The child molestation conviction of former Roman Catholic priest John Geoghan, a key figure in the clergy sex abuse scandal that rocked the Boston archdiocese, was vacated after he was beaten to death in 2003 in his cell at the same Massachusetts maximum-security prison.

John Salvi, who convicted of killing two abortion clinic workers and wounding five other people during shooting rampage in Brookline in 1994, also had his convictions tossed after he killed himself in prison.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report*

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## Mom delivers her own baby via C-section: 'The most perfect moment of my life'



Updated: 7:50 AM EDT Mar 15, 2018

### Chelsea Robinson

**Lawrenceburg, Ky.** — After several years as a midwife and nurse practitioner, one Kentucky mother knew she wanted the moment she welcomed her third child to be extra special.

[Lexington Herald-Leader](#) reports Emily Dial, of Lawrenceburg, delivered her own child via C-section Sunday at Frankfort Regional Medical Center.

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Photographer Sarah Hill documented the incredible birth and shared the story on social media.

**(Warning: The link below contains graphic images.)**

“My amazing midwife Emily Dial not only had a C-Section today but SHE PULLED THE BABY OUT HERSELF!!!!!!” [Hill wrote on Facebook](#). “It was unreal. To say that she is amazing, is an understatement. She was meant to bring babies into this world and didn’t let a little thing like a C-Section stop her from delivering her own!”

Dial was prepared for surgery as if she were about to deliver another person's baby. She went in with the attitude of, "If it doesn’t work out, it’s fine.”

Two obstetricians helped with the process. One of them made the incision in Dial's abdomen and broke her water before guiding the mother's hands to her baby.

She grasped the child and lifted her out on her own.

“It was a perfect moment. It was probably one of the most perfect moments of my life,” Dial told [PEOPLE](#), adding that she expected the baby to be a boy. “I was in shock and awe. I really wasn’t thinking about my belly being wide open. I was just like, ‘Oh my God! This really is a girl.’ ”

The delivery took about 10 minutes, in total.

"I had the [plastic] drape in front of my face and, trying to maintain sterile technique, I couldn't kiss [Emma]. I just kept bringing her up to my face and looking at her, like, "I just want you in my arms so much," Dial said.

Emma Kaye came into the world weighing 7 pounds, 15 ounces. She is the Dials' third baby. Both mother and child are back at home and doing well.

The mother hopes her experience sends a message to other women that a Caesarean delivery can be a great experience.

"It doesn't mean you have to just be laying on a table. You can still be a part of your birth. Even if you're not pulling your baby out, you can still be an active part of your birth and have a great experience."

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