

Wilson case gets July 20 court review

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The case of Genarlow Wilson, imprisoned for receiving oral sex from a 15-year-old girl when he was 17, will be heard by the Georgia Supreme Court more than two months earlier than originally planned.

Voting Monday, the justices reversed their earlier decision to deny a speedier process, a move that had left the hearing set for October.

A hearing now is scheduled for July 20 at 10 a.m., Supreme Court spokeswoman Jane O. Hansen said in a news release Monday.

Attorney General Thurbert Baker is appealing a Monroe County Superior Court judge's decision to reduce Wilson's felony conviction to a misdemeanor and free him from prison. Baker said the judge overstepped his authority when he granted Wilson's motion last month. Wilson's attorney is arguing his 10-year prison sentence is cruel and unusual punishment.

The court also decided to hold an expedited hearing on a Douglas County Superior Court judge's decision to deny bond for Wilson pending Baker's appeal. The judge says Wilson is not eligible for bond during the appeal because of the nature of his crime, aggravated child molestation. Wilson's attorney is appealing that judge's decision to the Georgia Supreme Court.