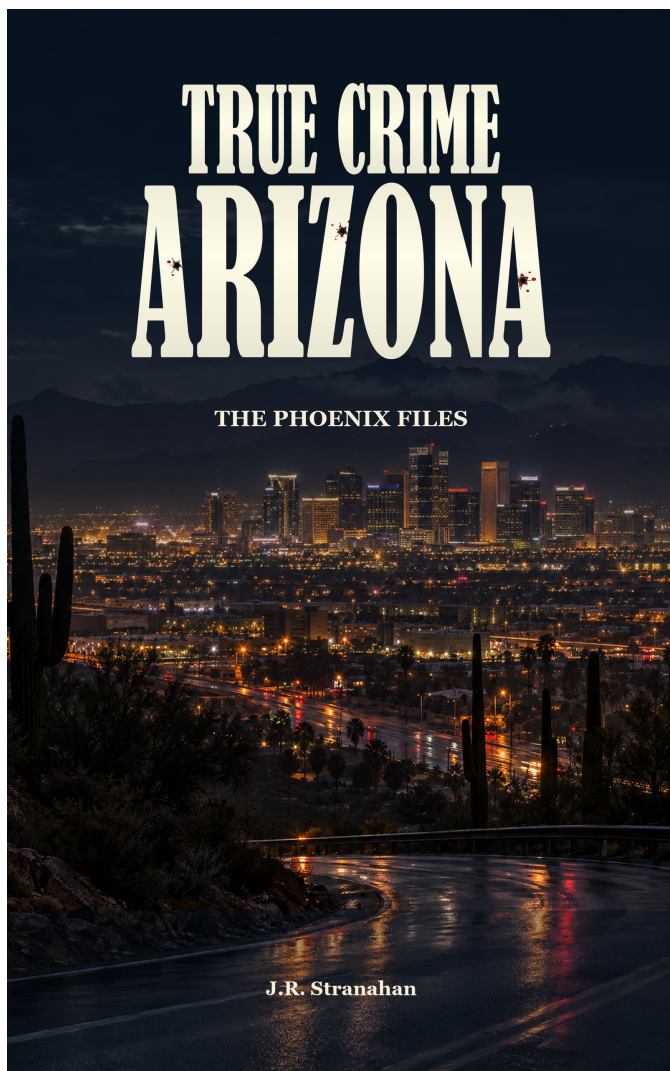


FREE READING SAMPLE



True Crime Arizona: The Phoenix Files

J.R. Stranahan

Read a complete chapter.

The Winnie Ruth Judd Prosecution

This free sample contains a complete chapter from the edition sold on True Crime America. Its source notes are included. The chapter text is reproduced from that edition; this is not the complete book.

Explore the full edition

One purchase includes the complete PDF and EPUB. Visit the book page for its contents, current price and availability.

<https://truecrimeamerica.us/arizona/books/phoenix-files/>

All rights reserved. This sample is supplied for personal reading.

File 1: The Winnie Ruth Judd Prosecution

Place and period: Phoenix, 1931-1971

Present legal status: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death.

This file belongs first to Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community. The public record is necessarily organized around investigation and adjudication, but a criminal case is not the measure of a life. The account uses the available record to describe what happened and how institutions responded, while avoiding invented biography where sources are silent.

The human scale

Agnes Anne LeRoi and Hedvig Samuelson were killed in a Phoenix residence in October 1931. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Winnie Ruth Judd Prosecution. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. In Phoenix, later retellings sometimes collapse the investigation and the judgment into one continuous story. The public record does not. It preserves the order in which information appeared and the forum in which it was tested. The present legal posture is stated separately: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death.

For Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. Their remains were transported by rail in trunks and luggage that investigators connected to Judd. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 1931-1971 record from Phoenix contains a point that resists shorthand: The prosecution tried Judd for LeRoi's murder rather than combining both deaths in one judgment. The present legal posture is equally specific: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. One proposition may be established while a neighboring proposition remains disputed. Treating them separately is not hesitation; it is accurate reporting.

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. A Maricopa County jury returned a first-degree murder verdict and fixed punishment at death. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Phoenix determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 1931-1971 marks the span over which the public learned it. The Arizona Supreme Court affirmed

the judgment in 1932 while addressing insanity instructions and the limits of a self-defense instruction. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: Competency findings prevented the execution from being carried out and led to long confinement in the state hospital system. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. Judd escaped custody several times, and those episodes became part of the public record without changing the scope of the murder judgment. A contemporaneous observation, a laboratory result, a charging allegation, and an appellate finding do not perform the same job. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. Describing those jobs plainly is especially important when the story concerns Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community.

The first account

By the time The Winnie Ruth Judd Prosecution reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. A Maricopa County jury returned a first-degree murder verdict and fixed punishment at death. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. The Arizona Supreme Court affirmed the judgment in 1932 while addressing insanity instructions and the limits of a self-defense instruction. That proposition is consequential on its own. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. The account therefore avoids borrowing certainty from unrelated defendants, other jurisdictions, or later cases that happen to resemble events in Phoenix.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: Competency findings prevented the execution from being carried out and led to long confinement in the state hospital system. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: Judd escaped custody several times, and those episodes became part of the public record without changing the scope of the murder judgment. They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 1931-1971. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. Refusing to bridge those gaps with speculation keeps the unresolved portions visible instead of disguising them as narrative momentum.

Consider the detail in its proper scale: Later clemency and pardon decisions altered punishment and legal disabilities but did not create a trial judgment for Samuelson's death. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Phoenix. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

The language of this chapter changes when the legal posture changes. Agnes Anne LeRoi and Hedvig Samuelson were killed in a Phoenix residence in October 1931. If the proposition came from an accusation, it remains attributed; if it survived adjudication, the judgment is named; if review altered the result, the alteration is carried forward. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. The controlling endpoint is recorded separately: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death.

What happened to Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. Their remains were transported by rail in trunks and luggage that investigators connected to Judd. Those records

overlap, but they are not interchangeable. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. Reading across them carefully prevents a later summary from erasing an earlier uncertainty or a later reversal.

Building a chronology

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. Judd escaped custody several times, and those episodes became part of the public record without changing the scope of the murder judgment. In the Phoenix record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. General crime lore would add volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. Later clemency and pardon decisions altered punishment and legal disabilities but did not create a trial judgment for Samuelson's death. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 1931-1971. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

Agnes Anne LeRoi and Hedvig Samuelson were killed in a Phoenix residence in October 1931. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Winnie Ruth Judd Prosecution. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. In Phoenix, later retellings sometimes collapse the investigation and the judgment into one continuous story. The public record does not. It preserves the order in which information appeared and the forum in which it was

tested. The present legal posture is stated separately: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death.

For Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. Their remains were transported by rail in trunks and luggage that investigators connected to Judd. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 1931-1971 record from Phoenix contains a point that resists shorthand: The prosecution tried Judd for LeRoi's murder rather than combining both deaths in one judgment. The present legal posture is equally specific: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. One proposition may be established while a neighboring proposition remains disputed. Treating them separately is not hesitation; it is accurate reporting.

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. A Maricopa County jury returned a first-degree murder verdict and fixed punishment at death. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. None of those steps authorizes

invented dialogue or a claim about what Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Phoenix determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 1931-1971 marks the span over which the public learned it. The Arizona Supreme Court affirmed the judgment in 1932 while addressing insanity instructions and the limits of a self-defense instruction. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

Physical evidence

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: Their remains were transported by rail in trunks and luggage that investigators connected to Judd. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. An item's evidentiary value depends on collection, testing, context, and the limits of what it can prove. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. The prosecution tried Judd for LeRoi's murder rather than combining both deaths in one judgment. A contemporaneous observation, a laboratory result, a charging allegation, and an appellate finding do not perform the same job. An item's evidentiary value depends on collection, testing, context, and the limits of what it can prove. Describing those jobs plainly is especially important when the story concerns Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community.

By the time The Winnie Ruth Judd Prosecution reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. A Maricopa County jury returned a first-degree murder verdict and fixed punishment at death. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. An item's evidentiary value depends on collection, testing, context, and the limits of what it can prove. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. The Arizona Supreme Court affirmed the judgment in 1932 while addressing insanity instructions and the limits of a self-defense instruction. That proposition is consequential on its own. An item's evidentiary value depends on collection, testing, context, and the limits of what it can prove. The account therefore avoids borrowing certainty from unrelated defendants, other jurisdictions, or later cases that happen to resemble events in Phoenix.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: Competency findings prevented the execution from being carried out and led to long confinement in the state hospital system. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. An item's evidentiary value depends on collection, testing, context, and the limits of what it can prove. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: Judd escaped custody several times, and those episodes became part of the public record without changing the

scope of the murder judgment. They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 1931-1971. An item's evidentiary value depends on collection, testing, context, and the limits of what it can prove. Refusing to bridge those gaps with speculation keeps the unresolved portions visible instead of disguising them as narrative momentum.

Witness evidence

Consider the detail in its proper scale: The Arizona Supreme Court affirmed the judgment in 1932 while addressing insanity instructions and the limits of a self-defense instruction. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Phoenix. Credibility depends on opportunity to observe, consistency, corroboration, motive, and courtroom testing. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

The language of this chapter changes when the legal posture changes. Competency findings prevented the execution from being carried out and led to long confinement in the state hospital system. If the proposition came from an accusation, it remains attributed; if it survived adjudication, the judgment is named; if review altered the result, the alteration is carried forward. Credibility depends on opportunity to observe, consistency, corroboration, motive, and courtroom testing. The controlling endpoint is recorded separately: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death.

What happened to Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. Judd escaped custody several times, and those episodes became part of the public record without changing the

scope of the murder judgment. Those records overlap, but they are not interchangeable. Credibility depends on opportunity to observe, consistency, corroboration, motive, and courtroom testing. Reading across them carefully prevents a later summary from erasing an earlier uncertainty or a later reversal.

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. Later clemency and pardon decisions altered punishment and legal disabilities but did not create a trial judgment for Samuelson's death. In the Phoenix record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. Credibility depends on opportunity to observe, consistency, corroboration, motive, and courtroom testing. General crime lore would add volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. Agnes Anne LeRoi and Hedvig Samuelson were killed in a Phoenix residence in October 1931. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 1931-1971. Credibility depends on opportunity to observe, consistency, corroboration, motive, and courtroom testing. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

Their remains were transported by rail in trunks and luggage that investigators connected to Judd. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Winnie Ruth Judd Prosecution. Credibility depends on opportunity to observe, consistency, corroboration, motive, and courtroom testing. In Phoenix, later retellings sometimes collapse the investigation and the judgment into one continuous story. The public record does not. It preserves the order in which information appeared and the forum in which it was tested. The present legal posture is stated

separately: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death.

Digital and documentary trails

For Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. Later clemency and pardon decisions altered punishment and legal disabilities but did not create a trial judgment for Samuelson's death. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. Records preserve timing and contact, but their meaning still depends on authentication and context. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 1931-1971 record from Phoenix contains a point that resists shorthand: Agnes Anne LeRoi and Hedvig Samuelson were killed in a Phoenix residence in October 1931. The present legal posture is equally specific: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death. Records preserve timing and contact, but their meaning still depends on authentication and context. One proposition may be established while a neighboring proposition remains disputed. Treating them separately is not hesitation; it is accurate reporting.

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. Their remains were transported by rail in trunks and luggage that investigators connected to Judd. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal

consequence. Records preserve timing and contact, but their meaning still depends on authentication and context. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Phoenix determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 1931-1971 marks the span over which the public learned it. The prosecution tried Judd for LeRoi's murder rather than combining both deaths in one judgment. Records preserve timing and contact, but their meaning still depends on authentication and context. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: A Maricopa County jury returned a first-degree murder verdict and fixed punishment at death. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. Records preserve timing and contact, but their meaning still depends on authentication and context. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. The Arizona Supreme Court affirmed the judgment in 1932 while addressing insanity instructions and the limits of a self-defense instruction. A contemporaneous observation, a laboratory result, a charging allegation, and an appellate finding do not perform the same job. Records preserve timing and contact, but their meaning still depends on authentication and context. Describing those jobs plainly is especially important when the story concerns Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community.

Charging choices

By the time The Winnie Ruth Judd Prosecution reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. The prosecution tried Judd for LeRoi's murder rather than combining both deaths in one judgment. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. An indictment states allegations, while a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. A Maricopa County jury returned a first-degree murder verdict and fixed punishment at death. That proposition is consequential on its own. An indictment states allegations, while a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. The account therefore avoids borrowing certainty from unrelated defendants, other jurisdictions, or later cases that happen to resemble events in Phoenix.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: The Arizona Supreme Court affirmed the judgment in 1932 while addressing insanity instructions and the limits of a self-defense instruction. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. An indictment states allegations, while a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: Competency findings prevented the execution from being carried out and led to long confinement in the state hospital system. They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 1931-1971. An indictment states allegations, while a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. Refusing to bridge those gaps with speculation keeps the unresolved portions visible instead of disguising them as narrative momentum.

Consider the detail in its proper scale: Judd escaped custody several times, and those episodes became part of the public record without changing the scope of the murder judgment. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Phoenix. An indictment states allegations, while a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

The language of this chapter changes when the legal posture changes. Later clemency and pardon decisions altered punishment and legal disabilities but did not create a trial judgment for Samuelson's death. If the proposition came from an accusation, it remains attributed; if it survived adjudication, the judgment is named; if review altered the result, the alteration is carried forward. An indictment states allegations, while a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. The controlling endpoint is recorded separately: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death.

The courtroom

What happened to Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. Competency findings prevented the execution from being carried out and led to long confinement in the state hospital system. Those records overlap, but they are not interchangeable. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. Reading across them carefully prevents a later summary from erasing an earlier uncertainty or a later reversal.

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. Judd escaped custody several times, and those episodes became part of the public record without changing the scope of the murder judgment. In the Phoenix record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. General crime lore would add volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. Later clemency and pardon decisions altered punishment and legal disabilities but did not create a trial judgment for Samuelson's death. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 1931-1971. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

Agnes Anne LeRoi and Hedvig Samuelson were killed in a Phoenix residence in October 1931. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Winnie Ruth Judd Prosecution. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. In Phoenix, later retellings sometimes collapse the investigation and the judgment into one continuous story. The public record does not. It preserves the order in which information appeared and the forum in which it was tested. The present legal posture is stated separately: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death.

For Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. Their remains were transported by rail in trunks and luggage that investigators connected to Judd. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 1931-1971 record from Phoenix contains a point that resists shorthand: The prosecution tried Judd for LeRoi's murder rather than combining both deaths in one judgment. The present legal posture is equally specific: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. One proposition may be established while a neighboring proposition remains disputed. Treating them separately is not hesitation; it is accurate reporting.

Appeal and review

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. Agnes Anne LeRoi and Hedvig Samuelson were killed in a Phoenix residence in October 1931. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. Appellate review addresses claimed legal error on a fixed record rather than conducting a second trial. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Phoenix determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 1931-1971 marks the span over which the public learned it. Their remains were transported by rail in trunks and luggage that investigators connected to Judd. Appellate review addresses claimed legal error on a fixed record rather than conducting a second trial. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: The prosecution tried Judd for LeRoi's murder rather than combining both deaths in one judgment. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. Appellate review addresses claimed legal error on a fixed record rather than conducting a second trial. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. A Maricopa County jury returned a first-degree murder verdict and fixed punishment at death. A contemporaneous observation, a laboratory

result, a charging allegation, and an appellate finding do not perform the same job. Appellate review addresses claimed legal error on a fixed record rather than conducting a second trial. Describing those jobs plainly is especially important when the story concerns Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community.

By the time The Winnie Ruth Judd Prosecution reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. The Arizona Supreme Court affirmed the judgment in 1932 while addressing insanity instructions and the limits of a self-defense instruction. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. Appellate review addresses claimed legal error on a fixed record rather than conducting a second trial. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. Competency findings prevented the execution from being carried out and led to long confinement in the state hospital system. That proposition is consequential on its own. Appellate review addresses claimed legal error on a fixed record rather than conducting a second trial. The account therefore avoids borrowing certainty from unrelated defendants, other jurisdictions, or later cases that happen to resemble events in Phoenix.

Uncertainty

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: A Maricopa County jury returned a first-degree murder verdict and fixed punishment at death. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. The account marks gaps in the record instead of filling them with motive, dialogue, or private thought. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: The Arizona Supreme Court affirmed the judgment in 1932 while addressing insanity instructions and the limits of a self-defense instruction. They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 1931-1971. The account marks gaps in the record instead of filling them with motive, dialogue, or private thought. Refusing to bridge those gaps with speculation keeps the unresolved portions visible instead of disguising them as narrative momentum.

Consider the detail in its proper scale: Competency findings prevented the execution from being carried out and led to long confinement in the state hospital system. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Phoenix. The account marks gaps in the record instead of filling them with motive, dialogue, or private thought. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

The language of this chapter changes when the legal posture changes. Judd escaped custody several times, and those episodes became part of the public record without changing the scope of the murder judgment. If the proposition came from an accusation, it remains attributed; if it survived adjudication, the judgment is named; if review altered the result, the alteration is carried forward. The account marks gaps in the record instead of filling them with motive, dialogue, or private thought.

The controlling endpoint is recorded separately: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death.

What happened to Agnes Anne LeRoi, Hedvig Samuelson, their families, Winnie Ruth Judd, and the Phoenix community generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. Later clemency and pardon decisions altered punishment and legal disabilities but did not create a trial judgment for Samuelson's death. Those records overlap, but they are not interchangeable. The account marks gaps in the record instead of filling them with motive, dialogue, or private thought. Reading across them carefully prevents a later summary from erasing an earlier uncertainty or a later reversal.

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. Agnes Anne LeRoi and Hedvig Samuelson were killed in a Phoenix residence in October 1931. In the Phoenix record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. The account marks gaps in the record instead of filling them with motive, dialogue, or private thought. General crime lore would add volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

Status at manuscript lock

The controlling status for this account is: Winnie Ruth Judd was convicted of the first-degree murder of Agnes Anne LeRoi and sentenced to death. The sentence was stayed after she was found mentally incompetent, and she spent decades in state custody before receiving parole and later an unconditional pardon. She was not tried for Hedvig Samuelson's death. That sentence is deliberately narrower than a television summary. It does not merge co-defendants, convert accusations into findings, or imply that an appeal erased a human death. Later proceedings may change the legal posture, but they should not be projected backward onto the record described here.

Sources from the edition

The Winnie Ruth Judd Prosecution

- Arizona Supreme Court, Judd v. State:

<https://openjurist.org/41/ariz/176/judd-v-state> - Arizona Memory Project, Winnie Ruth Judd archival collection:

<https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/nodes/view/412?showbacklinknav=411> - Arizona Judicial Branch historical cases materials: <https://www.azcourts.gov/Portals/0/2/EDSERV/DLU/BCAST/AZHC-DQs-OKBisbeeJudd.pdf>

Continue reading.

True Crime Arizona: The Phoenix Files

Explore the remaining cases and choose your complete edition in PDF and EPUB.

See the book and current price →

<https://truecrimeamerica.us/arizona/books/phoenix-files/>