

Human Remains Identified as Missing North Alabama Man Nearly 10 Years After Disappearance

by ABC 33/40

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Robert Deshawn Childers (FBI/fbi.gov)

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LAUDERDALE COUNTY, Ala. (WBMA) — he Lauderdale County Sheriff's Office has identified human remains discovered earlier this year as those of a Lauderdale County man who had been missing since 2016, according to a media release issued Wednesday.

Authorities said deputies responded on March 21, 2026, to the 5000 block of County Road 10 after receiving a report of possible human remains found in a wooded area behind a residence.

Investigators secured the scene and confirmed the remains were human. Following an extensive forensic investigation, officials said DNA evidence recovered with the remains matched a profile in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), positively identifying the deceased as Robert Deshawn Childers.

The Lauderdale County Sheriff's Office, with assistance from the Alabama State Fire Marshal's Office, conducted a careful excavation of the site. The remains were then transported by the Lauderdale County Coroner to the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences in Huntsville for an autopsy and forensic examination.

According to the sheriff's office, Childers was reported missing from the Cloverdale community in Lauderdale County on Sept. 19, 2016.

Officials said the manner of death has not yet been determined.

In its statement, the sheriff's office extended condolences to the Childers family, noting that the identification provides long-awaited answers after nearly a decade of uncertainty.

The investigation remains active and ongoing. Investigators are asking anyone with information related to the case to contact the Lauderdale County Sheriff's Office by email at dhogue@lauderdalecountyal.gov or by phone at 256-760-5761.

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