

AN ACT

RELATING TO CAPITAL FELONY SENTENCING; REQUIRING AN  
EXPLANATION BY THE COURT AT THE BEGINNING OF A SENTENCING  
HEARING FOR A CAPITAL FELONY CASE HEARD BY A JURY; ENACTING A  
NEW SECTION OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section 31-18-14.1 NMSA 1978 is  
enacted to read:

"31-18-14.1. CAPITAL FELONY CASE HEARD BY A JURY--  
SENTENCING HEARING--EXPLANATION BY COURT TO THE JURY.--At the  
beginning of a sentencing hearing for a capital felony case,  
subsequent to a verdict by the jury that the defendant is  
guilty of a capital felony, the court shall explain to the  
jury that a sentence of life imprisonment means that the  
defendant shall serve thirty years of his sentence before he  
becomes eligible for a parole hearing, as provided in Section  
31-21-10 NMSA 1978."

Section 2. APPLICABILITY.--The provisions of Section  
31-18-14.1 NMSA 1978 apply to persons convicted of a capital  
felony offense committed on or after July 1, 2001.

Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
provisions of this act is July 1, 2001. \_\_\_\_\_

