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## Brockton woman gets retrial in boyfriend's slaying

BOSTON (AP) — The state's highest court has awarded a new trial to a Brockton woman convicted of fatally stabbing her boyfriend.

Solange Anestal (ANN'-es-tahl) is serving a life sentence without parole following her 2007 conviction for killing Baby Petiry.

The Supreme Judicial Court said Tuesday that the trial judge erred by letting prosecutors introduce evidence of the defendant's prior bad acts.

The court also said jurors should have had instructions about excessive use of force in self-defense that evidence supported.

Anestal, now 33, claimed she wasn't criminally responsible because of mental problems following years of abuse.

She stabbed the victim, the father of her infant daughter, with a glass shard during a 2003 argument.

Anestal's lawyer, Robert F. Shaw Jr., says the decision affirms that trial proceedings should be grounded in fairness.

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