

STATE OF MICHIGAN
7th DISTRICT COURT

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN,

VS

File: 19-000215

MICHAEL CURRY,

Defendant

___ PROBABLE CAUSE HEARING

BEFORE THE HONORABLE ARTHUR CLARKE, JUDGE

South Haven, Michigan - March 8, 2019

APPEARANCES:

On behalf of the
People:

MICHAEL BEDFORD (P48853)
Prosecuting Attorney
212 Paw Paw Street
Paw Paw, MICHIGAN 49079

On behalf of the
Defendant:

JAMES KOLOSOWSKY (P75882)
221 Oak Street
Paw Paw, MICHIGAN 49079

Transcribed By:

Debra J. Meade (CER 1344)

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WITNESSES: (NONE)

1 South Haven, Michigan.

2 March 8, 2019 - at about 3:29 p.m.

3 (Court and all parties present)

4 THE COURT: This is a probable cause hearing in the
5 name of Michael Leon Curry. We have Detective Sergeant Kyle
6 Gorham here to offer probable cause. Sir do you solemnly
7 swear or affirm the testimony you are about to give shall be
8 the truth to the best of your knowledge, information and
9 belief sir?

10 MR. GORHAM: I do.

11 THE COURT: Thank you. Would you'd like to offer
12 probable cause in this matter sir?

13 MR. GORHAM: On 7-29 of 1986 Rhonda Wilkinson was
14 notified that her mother Wilda Wilkinson had not shown up for
15 work at the South Haven Hospital. Rhonda Wilkinson responded
16 to her mother's house which was located at 320 Alexander
17 Street which is in the City of Bangor, County of Van Buren,
18 State of Michigan.

19 Upon arriving at the residence she found that the
20 residence was secured, all the doors were locked, no one was
21 answering the door. Her mother's car, Wilda Wilkinson was in
22 the driveway at the time that she arrived there.

23 Rhonda proceeded to try to obtain entry into the
24 residence and ends up going to a rear window of the residence
25 where she removed a screen off of a window to gain entry into

1 the residence. She then discovered upon being inside the
2 residence that her mother was laying deceased on the floor in
3 her bedroom.

4 Rhonda Wilkinson left the residence, ran out to
5 find help. When Vicki Wait observed Rhonda running down the
6 road and stopped to pick her up. Rhonda advised Vicki of
7 what had occurred and Vicki Wait then proceeded with Rhonda
8 back to Wilda Wilkinson's residence. Vicki observed that
9 Wilda Wilkinson was deceased and then went next door to use
10 the telephone to call the police, (inaudible) Pike residence.

11 The Bangor police officer Lieutenant Tim Wydick
12 responded to the scene with reserve officer Anthony Caruso.
13 The Bangor ambulance also responded to the scene with
14 ambulance attendant Steve Lower present. Upon the ambulance
15 attendant Steve Lower assessing Ms. Wilkinson he observed
16 bruising on Wilkinson's body that appeared suspicious and not
17 natural. Ambulance attendance Lower also observed that the
18 victim's clothing was in a manner that was suspicious and did
19 not appear as though the victim had fallen.

20 Lieutenant Wydick stated he observed bruising
21 around the throat area of Wilda Wilkinson. Lieutenant Wydick
22 also advised that Ms. Wilkinson's clothing was suspicious as
23 the nightgown had been pulled up - or excuse me, had been
24 pulled down below the breast line and pulled up above the
25 waist line exposing Ms. Wilkinson's unclothed body parts.

1 Lieutenant Wydick also noted that the victim was
2 laying on her back with her legs spread and her arms out to
3 her side. Lieutenant Wydick did not locate any sign of
4 forced entry during his investigation of the scene.

5 Medical examiner (inaudible) was called to the
6 scene and noted suspicious blue marks on the side and front
7 of Ms. Wilkinson's neck. The medical examiner Chang
8 requested an autopsy of Ms. Wilkinson. Dr. Glasier performed
9 the autopsy of Ms. Wilda Wilkinson and determined the manner
10 of death is homicide. Bangor Police Officer Lieutenant Tim
11 Wydick began an investigation of Ms. Wilkinson's death,
12 Bangor Police Department Complaint Number 23128286.

13 Lieutenant Tim Wydick interviewed several
14 individuals pertaining to this investigation. One of the
15 individuals being a Michael Leon Curry, a white male, date of
16 birth 11-26-67. Michael Leon Curry was arrested and lodged
17 in the Van Buren County Jail for unarmed robbery on 8-21-86.
18 Robert Pritchard, a white male date of birth 5-6-62 was
19 arrested for OUIL and booked in the Van Buren County Jail on
20 11-10-86.

21 Robert Pritchard sent Lieutenant Tim Wydick a
22 letter notifying Lieutenant Wydick that he had information
23 pertaining to the Wilda Wilkinson investigation. Robert
24 Pritchard was interviewed on 1-5-87 by Lieutenant Tim Wydick
25 reference to this investigation. Pritchard advised

1 Lieutenant Wydick that Michael Curry had told him that he
2 killed Wilda Wilkinson. Robert Pritchard also advised that
3 he had a hand written letter from Michael Curry addressed to
4 Tim, confessing that he had killed Wilda Wilkinson and that
5 Pritchard had this letter in his possession.

6 Robert Pritchard provided this letter to Lieutenant
7 Wydick. This is the confession letter written by Michael
8 Curry dated 12-28 of 1986. Lieutenant Wydick interviewed
9 Michael Curry with Scott Smith and Michael Curry admitted
10 that he did write the confession letter that had been turned
11 in by Robert Pritchard. Michael Curry also confessed to
12 committing the crime by strangling Wilda Wilkinson with his
13 hands in her house.

14 Michael Curry provided detailed information of the
15 crime during this interview with Lieutenant Wydick. Curry
16 stated that he had went to the residence to commit a breaking
17 and entering upon knocking on the door of the residence in
18 the 300 block of the Alexander Street, City of Bangor. No
19 one answered the door immediately and then he was startled
20 when a female surprised him by answering the door. Upon her
21 answering the door he pushed the female victim of the scene,
22 Wilda Wilkinson inside the residence and then once inside the
23 residence pushed her into a reclining chair. Michael advised
24 he strangled the victim with his hands and the victim ended
25 up on the floor of the residence. Michael admits to taking

1 the clothing off of the victim and leaving the residence with
2 the clothing from the residence. Michael advised that when
3 he left the residence he locked all the doors to the
4 residence, leaving on foot, and he stated that as he was - as
5 he arrived at his residence he had a set of keys in his hand
6 that he believed belonged to the Wilda Wilkinson's residence
7 so he flushed them down the toilet.

8 Michael Curry confessed twice verbally to
9 Lieutenant Tim Wydick about killing Wilda Wilkinson. Michael
10 Curry also advised that he believed that Officer Wydick had
11 already located the underwear of Wilda Wilkinson, that Wilda
12 Wilkinson had been wearing on the night that he committed
13 this crime. Michael described these underwear as being
14 purple and white in color.

15 On 12-12 of 1989 Earl (inaudible) was assaulted by
16 Michael Curry at 110 North Walnut Street in the City of
17 Bangor. Michael Curry was arrested and charged with assault
18 with intent to commit murder. 12-13 of '89 Lieutenant Wydick
19 received a letter dated 12-12 of '89. This letter was
20 addressed to Tim. This letter starts by advising "almost 41
21 months have passed, 1,233 days since that fatal hot and humid
22 July night." 1,233 days is the exact number of days from the
23 date on the letter to the date of Wilda Wilkinson's death,
24 almost 41 months. And July was the month that Wilda
25 Wilkinson was killed. The letter dated 12-12 of '89 also

1 referenced Wilda Wilkinson not having any panties on to make
2 the crime look like it was a rape. Wilda Wilkinson was
3 located with no underwear on at the scene of the crime.

4 The letter dated 12-12 of 1989 had been mailed
5 within the city limits of Bangor, as the envelope on this
6 letter had no routing numbers indicating that it had been
7 sent out of the City of Bangor to Grand Rapids for routing.

8 The letter and envelope dated 12-12 of '89 were
9 sent to the Michigan State Police Forensic Lab in Grand
10 Rapids for fingerprint analysis. Numerous fingerprints were
11 located on the letter and identified by Detective Sergeant
12 Gerald (inaudible) as belonging to Michael Curry. The
13 Michigan State Police reviewed this case and opened an
14 investigation of this incident, this complaint number is
15 50149 of 18.

16 Michael Curry's right thumb print was located on
17 the letter dated 12-28 of 1986 by Lieutenant Robert Haggart
18 of the Michigan State Police latent print unit. This letter
19 is commonly referred to as the confession letter.

20 Search warrants were activated to monitor Michael
21 Curry's Facebook account, ID #100027091299408. User name for
22 this account is Nikki.Curry.3388, and Facebook account
23 100027079533159, user name Nikki, N-i-k-k-i.Curry, C-u-r-r-y.
24 7092.

25 Upon reviewing the Facebook account

1 100027079533159, user name Nikki Curry.7092, Michael Curry
2 posted on 6-28 of 2018, "I am no angel. If I get pissed I
3 kill." An additional post of the same date of "I don't like
4 witnesses."

5 Upon reviewing Facebook account number
6 100027079533159, user name Nikki Curry.7092, Michael Curry
7 posted on 6-28 of 2018, "I have never killed anyone who did
8 not - who didn't deserve it."

9 On 10-1 of 2018 the Michigan State Police
10 detectives utilized a search warrant for the exhumation of
11 Wilda Wilkinson's body from the Lampley Cemetery located in
12 Cheshire Township, Allegan County.

13 On 10-2 of 2018 an autopsy was performed on Wilda
14 Wilkinson at W.Med school of Medicine by Dr. Theodore Brown.
15 Dr. Theodore Brown concluded the cause of death had multiple
16 injuries including asphyxia, manner of death, homicide.

17 THE COURT: I can find probable cause that on
18 July 29th of 1986 Michael Leon Curry was in the City of
19 Bangor, County of Van Buren, and did while in the
20 perpetration or attempt perpetration of breaking and entering
21 of a dwelling or a larceny, murdered one Wilda Wilkinson. On
22 execution by Detective Sergeant Kyle Gorham I will sign the
23 felony complaint and put no bond on the warrant in this
24 matter.

25 Thank you.

