

# Joplin police treating case as homicide

A badly decomposed body of an unidentified man was discovered Sunday night in the back of a garage behind 405 W. First St., and Joplin police are treating the case as a homicide.

Sgt. Ken Copeland of the Joplin Police Department said an autopsy was conducted Monday, but the cause of death remained undetermined.

The man was described as being in his 20s, standing about 6 feet and weighing 150 pounds. The man had been dead for several weeks, Copeland said.

Copeland said police think the man might have been a person reported missing several weeks ago and are checking dental records.

The body was discovered by a passer-by in the back of a small garage that faces an alley. The front of the garage was locked but the back was open, Copeland said.

There was no wallet on the body, police said, and there were no visible injuries.

"Right now we're working it as if it were a homicide, but we really don't know what happened," Lt. Richard Gammill said.

# Body identified as that of Miami man

A man found dead Sunday night in a garage behind 407 W. First St. had been missing since July 6, Joplin police said Tuesday.

The body was identified as that of John D. Masters, 26, 407½ W. First St.

The badly decomposed body was identified through medical and dental records, said Detective Bill Harman.

Carol Greene, Jasper County deputy coroner, said

an autopsy was inconclusive because of the body's state of deterioration.

Harman said police have no reason to suspect foul play, but "we haven't ruled anything out yet."

A relative of victim said Masters, a native of Miami, Okla., had been in Joplin looking for work. She said she called police because Masters "always kept in touch with me and then all of a sudden he didn't."

Larry Burgess, who lives in an apartment house

next door at 401 W. First St., said many of the area's residents stay a few weeks, then leave. Masters, he said, easily could have not been missed in the swirl of tenants.

But, Burgess said he was surprised the body had not been found sooner because most of the tenants in the area set their garbage out for pickup next to the garage.

A passer-by found the body in the back of the small garage, which faces an alley.

JOPLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Case Incident #: 1-89-004796 Complainant: UNKNOWN  
(Continued)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dick phoned me later and advised the following; he was contacted by a confidential informant who related; he (informant) was told by Donnie Polson that Donnie Polson's sister, Amy Polson was living with a Scott Miller who is a [REDACTED] at 407 1/2 W. 1st, lower apartment and Amy's boyfriend (name and address unknown) told Donnie that he (unknown boy friend) had got drunk and strangled the son of a bitch (Masters) and drug him out into the garage.

[REDACTED]

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

STATE FILE NUMBER

REGISTRATION DISTRICT NO. 097

REGISTRAR'S NUMBER 6637

124 -

1. DECEDENT'S NAME (First, Middle, Last) **JOHN D. MASTERS** 2. SEX **MALE** 3. DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year) **JULY 7, 1989**

4. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. [REDACTED] 5a. AGE - Last Birthday (Years) **26** 5b. UNDER 1 YEAR MONTHS DAYS 5c. UNDER 1 DAY HOURS MINUTES 6. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year) [REDACTED] 7. BIRTHPLACE (City and State or Foreign Country) [REDACTED]

8. WAS DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES?  Yes  No  Unk. 9a. PLACE OF DEATH (check only one; see instructions on other side) HOSPITAL:  Inpatient  ER/Outpatient  DOA OTHER:  Nursing Home  Residence  Other (specify)

9b. FACILITY NAME (If not institution, give street and number) **407 WEST 1ST.** 9c. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION OF DEATH **JOPLIN** 9d. COUNTY OF DEATH **JASPER**

10. MARITAL STATUS - Married, Never Married, Widowed, Divorced (Specify) **NEVER MARRIED** 11. SURVIVING SPOUSE'S NAME (If wife, give full maiden name) 12a. DECEDENT'S USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life. Do not use retired.) **LABORER** 12b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY **OIL COMPANY**

13a. RESIDENCE - STATE **MISSOURI** 13b. COUNTY **JASPER** 13c. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION **JOPLIN** 13d. ZIP CODE **64801**

13e. STREET AND NUMBER **407 WEST 1ST.** 13f. INSIDE CITY LIMITS  Yes  No 13g. YEARS AT PRESENT ADDRESS  Under 5  5-9  10-19  20 or more

14. WAS DECEDENT OF HISPANIC ORIGIN (Specify No or Yes - If yes, specify Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, etc.)  No  Yes Specify: 15. RACE - American Indian, Black, White, etc. (Specify) **WHITE** 15. DECEDENT'S EDUCATION (Specify only highest grade completed) Elementary/Secondary (0-12) College (1-4 or 5+) **1**

17. FATHER'S NAME (First, Middle, Last) 18. MOTHER'S NAME (First, Middle, Maiden Surname)

19a. INFORMANT'S NAME (Type/Print) 19b. MAILING ADDRESS (Street and Number or Rural Route Number, City or Town, State, Zip Code)

20a. BURIAL, CREMATION, OTHER (Specify) **BURIAL** 20b. DATE OF DISPOSITION (Month, Day, Year) **AUG. 3, 1989** 20c. PLACE OF DISPOSITION (Name of cemetery, crematory, or other place) **G A R CEMETERY** 20d. LOCATION - City or Town, State **MIAMI, OKLAHOMA 74354**

21. SIGNATURE OF FUNERAL SERVICE LICENSEE OR PERSON ACTING AS SUCH 22a. NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY **THORNHILL-DILLON MORTUARY 602 BYERS JOPLIN, MISSOURI 64801** 22b. FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE NUMBER **28**

23. PART I. Enter the diseases, injuries, or complications that caused the death. Do not enter the mode of dying, such as cardiac or respiratory arrest, shock, or heart failure. List only one cause on each line.

IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Final disease or condition resulting in death) a. **unknown** DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF): b. c. d.

Sequitally list conditions, if any, leading to immediate cause. Enter UNDERLYING CAUSE (disease or injury that initiated events resulting in death) LAST

24. IF DECEASED WAS FEMALE 10-49, WAS SHE PREGNANT IN THE LAST 90 DAYS?  Yes  No  Unk. 25a. WAS AN AUTOPSY PERFORMED?  Yes  No 25b. WERE AUTOPSY FINDINGS AVAILABLE PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF CAUSE OF DEATH?  Yes  No

26. MANNER OF DEATH  Natural  Pending Investigation  Accident  Suicide  Could not be Determined  Homicide 27a. DATE OF INJURY (Month, Day, Year) **July 10, 1989** 27b. TIME OF INJURY **unknown** 27c. WAS INJURY ALCOHOL-RELATED? (Not limited to decedent)  Yes  No  Unk. 27d. INJURY AT WORK?  Yes  No  Unk. 27e. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED **unknown**

27f. PLACE OF INJURY - At home, farm, street, factory, office building, etc. (specify) **407 West 1st home** 27g. LOCATION (Street and Number or Rural Route Number, City or Town, State) **Joplin, MO 64801**

28a. (Specify)  CERTIFYING PHYSICIAN  MEDICAL EXAMINER/CORONER 28b. To the best of my knowledge, death occurred at the time, date and place and due to the cause(s) stated. (Signature and Title) **Deputy Coroner** 28c. DATE SIGNED (Month, Day, Year) **8-5-89** 28d. TIME OF DEATH **unknown**

29a. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CERTIFIER (PHYSICIAN, MEDICAL EXAMINER OR CORONER) (Type or Print) **211 West E, Joplin MO** 29b. MO. LICENSE NUMBER 30. WAS CASE REFERRED TO MEDICAL EXAMINER/CORONER?  Yes  No

31. NAME OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN IF OTHER THAN CERTIFIER (Type or Print) **N/A** 32. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE 33. DATE RECEIVED BY LOCAL REGISTRAR (Month, Day, Year) **August 17, 1989**

THIS IS A CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ORIGINAL DOCUMENT. (Do not accept if rephotographed, or if seal impression cannot be felt.)

THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS DOCUMENT IS PROHIBITED BY LAW (section 193.315, RSMo Supp. 1984)

STATE OF MISSOURI } 33

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this is an exact reproduction of the certificate for the person named therein as it now appears in the permanent records of the Bureau of Vital Records of the Missouri Department of Health. Witness my hand as County Registrar of Vital Statistics and the Seal of the Missouri Department of Health this date of

August 17, 1989

William Gory Registrar of Vital Statistics

# Police trying to solve mystery of quiet, lonely man's death

By Tom Corwin  
Globe Staff Writer

John D. Masters, 26, was found dead last Sunday night in a garage a few steps outside his back door at 407½ W. First St.

His nearly skeletal remains had been there about a month, police said. Carol Greene, Jasper County deputy coroner, was unable to tell police how Masters died.

"We cannot determine wounds, if any," Mrs. Greene said last week.

A relative in Miami, Okla., had reported Masters missing July 6, saying she hadn't heard from him in a while.

Neighbors in a nearby apartment house remembered seeing the lanky man they called "J.D." about the time he disappeared. When he was gone, they didn't think much of it; Masters had said he was going to move on. They remembered him as a quiet, lonely man who had his problems but was trying to work things out.

A 24-year-old woman, who asked not to be identified, said she met Masters soon after she moved into the apartment house at the beginning of May.

"I met him at a party," the woman said. "He was a real quiet guy. He wasn't a rough character at all."

She said Masters told her that he had been through a treatment program at Freeman Hospital and was going to Narcotics Anonymous meetings.

"He felt better now that he'd gone through all that," she said. "He talked about the choices you make with your life, and things like that, from the meetings."

The woman and a 23-year-old friend talked about Masters as they stood on their front porch overlooking the house where he lived. Masters liked electronics and sports, and was looking for a job in Joplin, they said. They said his problems seemed to stem from his friendship with some "rough characters" who lived across the street from him.

The problems began in mid-June, they said, after a party at their building.

Masters apparently told the two men across the street that he had slept with a woman at the building. This seemed to anger the two men.

"J.D. came over to apologize that Monday" about the lie, one of the women said. "He was really terrified. He was afraid of those guys."

The dispute degenerated into yelling, she said; each time Masters walked by the house across the street, the two men would jeer at him from their front porch. Then Masters disappeared, and the two men moved out, she said. She and her friend asked for anonymity, saying they feared reprisals from the two men.

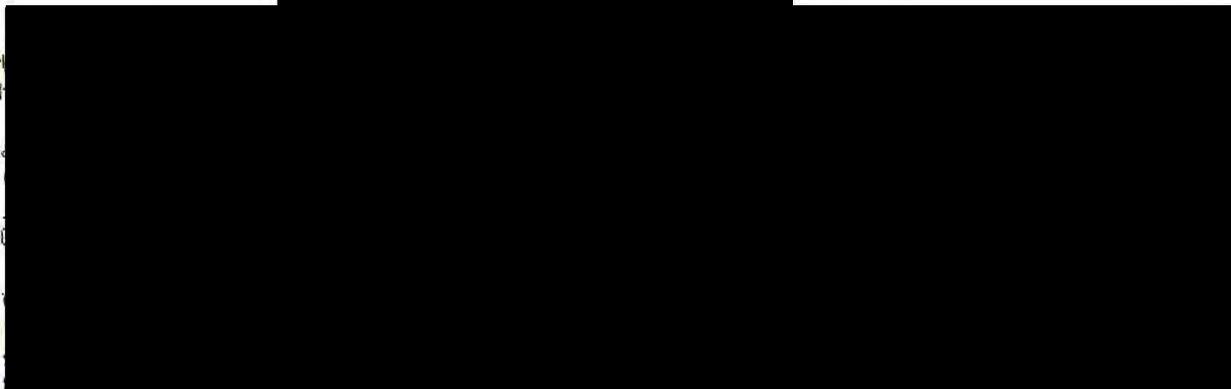
Police originally said they were treating the death as a homicide; at midweek, they said they had no reason to suspect foul play.

Sgt. Ken Copeland said police were continuing the investigation into Masters' death but had nothing new to report. The investigation will remain open, Copeland said, until police solve the mystery of the man's death.

Masters, a native of Miami, was buried Thursday in a graveside service at GAR Cemetery, Miami. Contributions may be made to the First National Bank, Miami, to be donated later to a charity, a family member said.

JOPLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Incident #: 1-89-004796 Complainant: UNKNOWN



No further information.

Det Bill Harman 0047

Follow up Donnie Poulson HARMAN WILLIAM Report: 8/16/89

Person contacted: Donald Poulson  
Joplin, Mo.

081689 1600 Donnie Poulson returned my phone call. He said he does not know J.D. Masters, Katura, Smith or Amy's boyfriend; Troy. When asked about the story he repeated about Troy Shenfield telling him that he strangled Masters and drug him into the garage., Donnie related the following;  
He heard the story from his mother, Lois, who works at the [redacted] on south Main. Lois contacted him and was upset when she told him the story. She did not say where she heard the story. Donnie then phoned his sister, Amy Poulson, and she told him that her boy friend, Troy Shenfield was drunk when he told the story and that he was just joking about it.

Donnie added that Amy is living with Troy at this time in Wyoming. Investigation continuing.

Det Bill Harman

Follow up Lois Adams HARMAN WILLIAM Report: 8/17/89

Person contacted: <sup>417</sup> Lois Adams (mother of Donnie & Amy Poulson)

POE: [redacted]  
Joplin, Mo. [redacted]

081789 1100 I contacted Adams in person at the [redacted] I explained that I was tracing this story to ascertain any validity.



## MISSOURI STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

Deputy Director's Office  
Woodrail Centre - 1000 W. Nifong Blvd. Building 7, Suite 100  
Columbia, Missouri 65203  
Telephone: 573-777-9977  
e-mail: [lisa.mcgee@mspd.mo.gov](mailto:lisa.mcgee@mspd.mo.gov)

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July 25, 2025

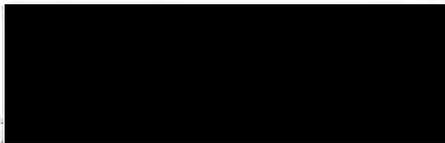
Mr. Donald R. Simpson  
Reg. No. 502660  
Northeast Correctional Center  
13698 Airport Road  
Bowling Green, MO 63334

Dear Mr. Simpson:

Per our conversation enclosed you will find a release for all of your files relating to your Jasper County Case. Your files are in 3 ½ boxes. Please sign and return the enclosed release to me in the self-addressed stamped envelope. Upon receipt I will prepare them to be sent to you. Note that I handle file requests in the order that I receive them so this will take some time (I have to redact SSNs).

After you review your attorney files, I would strongly suggest releasing them to a family member for safe keeping as documents can get lost and/or destroyed in prison. Keep in mind **that our office will not keep copies of these attorney files and will have no way to provide you with copies of your attorney files in the future.**

Sincerely,



Support Services Coordinator

Enclosures



# MISSOURI STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

Appellate/PCR Division  
Woodrail Centre -- 1000 W. Nifong, Building 7, Suite 100  
Columbia, Missouri 65203  
Telephone: 573-777-9977  
Fax: 573-777-9974

## AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE

I hereby authorize the Public Defender to release the following attorney files to me:

- State v. Donald R. Simpson , \_\_\_\_\_ County Case No. CR519-55FX (trial file)
- State v. Donald R. Simpson, Appeal No. 19043 & 19937-2 & SC 78479 (consolidated appeal file)
- Donald R. Simpson v. State, \_\_\_\_\_ County Case No. CV194-483CC (PCR file)

I understand that the Public Defender will no longer be able to provide me with copies of these attorney files. I will be responsible for the safe-keeping of these attorney files.

7/30/25  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donald R. Simpson, #502660  
Northeast Correctional Center

Subscribed and sworn to me this 30 day of July, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

Commission Expires: 12/08/2028



# Joplin police continuing investigation into death

**By Tom Corwin**  
**Globe Staff Writer**

The death of a man whose body was found July 30 in a garage behind his rooming house at 407½ W. First St. is still under investigation by Joplin police.

Detective Bill Harman said police are waiting for a final report on the autopsy on the badly decomposed body of John D. Masters, 26, a native of Miami, Okla. Preliminary results of the autopsy were inconclusive because of the condition of the body. Masters was identified through dental and medical records, Harman said.

Police are trying to determine an approximate date of death by tracking down neighbors who might have seen Masters just before he disappeared. Police say neighbors last saw the tall, lanky man they called "J.D." in early

July walking down the street near his home.

A member of Masters' family at Miami reported him missing July 6 after not hearing from him for a few days.

There was no wallet on the body and it was not found in the house, but Harman said that is not uncommon in cases such as this.

Neighbors had earlier reported that Masters was having problems with two men who lived across the street, and Harman said he has located the men and will try to question them soon. Both men moved out soon after Masters disappeared, neighbors said. Most of the surrounding neighbors left soon after the body was discovered, he said.

Harman said he still spends "quite a bit of time" on the case.

"I promised myself I would solve it one way or the other," he said.

Tuesday,  
December 12, 1989

The Joplin Globe

# Inmate charged with murder

## Charge follows discovery of body by 4½ months

By Jim Suhr  
Globe Staff Writer

Jasper County authorities on Monday charged an Arkansas man, in jail awaiting trial on a rape charge, in connection with the death of a Miami, Okla., native whose decomposed body was found in July in a Joplin garage.

Prosecutors charged John B. Katura, 24, Vanndale, Ark., with first-degree murder in connection with the July 6 slaying of John D. Masters. The 4½-month probe by Joplin authorities began when Masters' body was dead July 30 in the structure at 407½ W. First St.

Associate Circuit Judge Richard Copeland set Katura's bond at \$50,000 bond, and scheduled the defendant's arraignment for Wednesday.

Authorities ruled Masters died of strangulation, although a Jasper County deputy coroner

said in August that an autopsy was inconclusive because of the body's state of deterioration. Carol Greene also said at the time that the body was identified as that of Masters through medical and dental records. Ms. Greene could not be reached for comment Monday.

Jasper County Coroner Rob Knell declined to comment on Monday's development in the case and referred all queries to Prosecutor David Dally, who declined to comment on the cause of death or the investigation.

"I cannot elaborate now on the evidence concerning what brought about the charge," Dally said.

The charge comes four months after police officials said they had no reason to suspect foul play, based on the absence of visible wounds or injuries on the body.

Masters' body was found by a passer-by in

the back of the small garage that faces an alley, about two weeks after a relative reported the disappearance of the victim she said "always kept in touch with me." The front of the garage was locked but the back was open, police said.

Larry Burgess, a resident who lived in an apartment house next door to Masters, said this summer that the neighborhood attracted transient people and that Masters easily could have not been missed in the swirl of tenants.

Before Monday, Katura had been held in the Jasper County Jail at Carthage in lieu of \$40,000 bond on a rape charge filed in connection with an alleged incident Feb. 18 involving a Southwest Missouri girl. He pleaded innocent to that charge June 23 and is awaiting trial, pending the completion of court-ordered psychiatric testing.

Joplin police officials involved in the investigation could not be reached for comment Monday.

# Man, charged in slaying, draws 30-year term for rape

By Jim Suhr  
Globe Staff Writer

A former trucker, awaiting trial in August in connection with the strangulation death of a Joplin man, was sentenced Monday to 30 years in prison for raping a teen-age girl who consented to have sex with him.

John Katura, 24, formerly of 410 W. First St., must serve at least 24 years of the maximum sentence imposed by Jasper County Circuit Judge William Carl Crawford before being considered for parole, a stipulation of being adjudged a habitual offender by the judge in March.

Crawford also denied a request for a new trial filed by Katura, who was convicted by a jury March 19 of having sexual intercourse on Feb. 19 with a girl who then was a 13-year-old Joplin Junior High School student.

Katura did not testify in the rape trial, when Jasper County sheriff's deputies told jurors that Katura wrote in a voluntary statement to authorities that the girl "had asked me to make love to her. I didn't want to, but we did for one night only."

The girl, now of Carthage, said she "had a crush" on Katura shortly after she was introduced to him in February 1989 by his fiancée, the girl's cousin.

She testified at the rape trial that she later gave Katura her telephone

number, sparking the romance that inspired her to flee an unhappy home setting Feb. 17 for the north Joplin trailer of Katura, who by then had ended his engagement.

She testified she agreed to have sex with Katura several times during the next five days, including an encounter Feb. 19 that led to the rape charge against the defendant.

Crawford on Monday set a \$100,000 appeal bond for Katura, whose prison sentence will not begin until after his trial, tentatively set for Aug. 27-29, in the murder of John D. Masters. His bond on the first-degree murder charge is \$50,000.

Katura was free on bond in the rape case when authorities on July 30 found the decomposed body of Masters, 26, in a garage near his apartment at 407½ W. First St.

Katura later told authorities in a jail-house statement in August that Masters was strangled by a man with whom Katura shared a residence at 410 W. First St. That man, Donald Simpson, remains at large.

Katura said Simpson went to Masters' apartment to rob the victim and that he saw Simpson wring a towel around the neck of the handcuffed Masters. The robbery netted Simpson \$45 and a pair of tennis shoes, Katura said.

Simpson later dragged the body to the garage, Katura said.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JASPERE COUNTY, MISSOURI  
CIRCUIT DIVISION

STATE OF MISSOURI, )  
 )  
 Plaintiff, )  
 )  
 vs. ) Case No. CR591-55FX  
 )  
 DONALD R. SIMPSON, )  
 )  
 Defendant. )

DEFENDANT'S REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE BY COURT ORDER

COMES NOW Defendant, by and through counsel of record, and pursuant to Supreme Court Rules 25.03, 25.04, and Missouri Statutes and cases, makes written request for disclosure of the following:

1. All names and last known addresses of persons whom the State intends to call as witnesses at the preliminary hearing and trial herein together with all written and recorded statements, existing memorandum reporting or summarizing part or all of their oral statements.

2. Any written or recorded statements and the substance of any oral statements made by such witnesses or the Defendant, whether inculpatory or exculpatory, including a list of all witnesses and their addresses to the making or acknowledgement thereof, whether to law officers or third persons.

3. The right to inspect and copy any books, papers, documents, photographs or objects which the State intends to introduce into evidence which were obtained from or belong to the Defendant or upon which the State intends to rely either at the preliminary hearing or trial.

4. Any information within the possession or control of the

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KATHLEEN M. MCGUIRE-CLERK  
JAN 20 1993  
JASPER COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK  
JOPLIN, MISSOURI

or photographic lineup, or regular lineup held at police headquarters.

16. State any record or prior criminal convictions of persons whom the State intends to call as witnesses at preliminary hearing or trial, including reasonably anticipated rebuttal witnesses.

(a) state precise nature of any prior criminal connections or arrests of defendant.

17. The names and addresses of any other suspects in this case.

(a) Any physical evidence or information that someone else may have committed the alleged crime.

18. Any anonymous tips, phone calls or notes received by the State or its agents.

19. A complete inspection of the State's entire file in the above styled case.

20. Copies of any rights or search waivers signed by the Defendant.

21. The name and address of any other person arrested or suspected for the same alleged incident.

22. All information relating to any understanding or agreement between any State witness and the State, regarding prosecutions of said witness for past, present or future criminal conduct and regarding sentencing or sentencing recommendations as to any such witness.

23. Any mental, psychological or physical problem and reports of same that the alleged victim has.

24. What, if any, fingerprints of Defendant or of anyone else

were lifted or taken at or near the scene of alleged offense.

25. Copies of any search or arrest warrants issued.

26. A copy of the jail booking sheet and property inventory of Defendant.

27. Defendant moves for the discovery of any material or thing which was the subject of a test, comparison, or sample.

28. Defendant moves for the discovery of all physical evidence which the State has in its possession.

29. Defendant moves for disclosure by the State of all "prior bad acts" or "evidence of other crimes" in which the State intends to rely or in which the State has knowledge. *vs. Al*

WHEREFORE, Defendant, by and through counsel of record, prays for full and complete inspection and rights of discovery regarding each of the above paragraphs mentioned herein, and that the Court order the State to respond in writing to each of the above and foregoing requests within ten (10) days hereof, together with such other and further relief.

  
DEE WAMPLER, Missouri Bar 19046  
Attorney for Defendant

WAMPLER, WAMPLER & CATT  
Attorneys at Law  
1200-C. E. Woodhurst Drive  
Springfield, Missouri 65804  
417/887-1155

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

A copy of the foregoing was mailed/delivered to the office of Prosecuting Attorney this 18th day of January, 1993.

  
DEE WAMPLER

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JASPER COUNTY, MISSOURI  
AT JOPLIN, DIVISION I

State of Missouri, Plaintiff, )

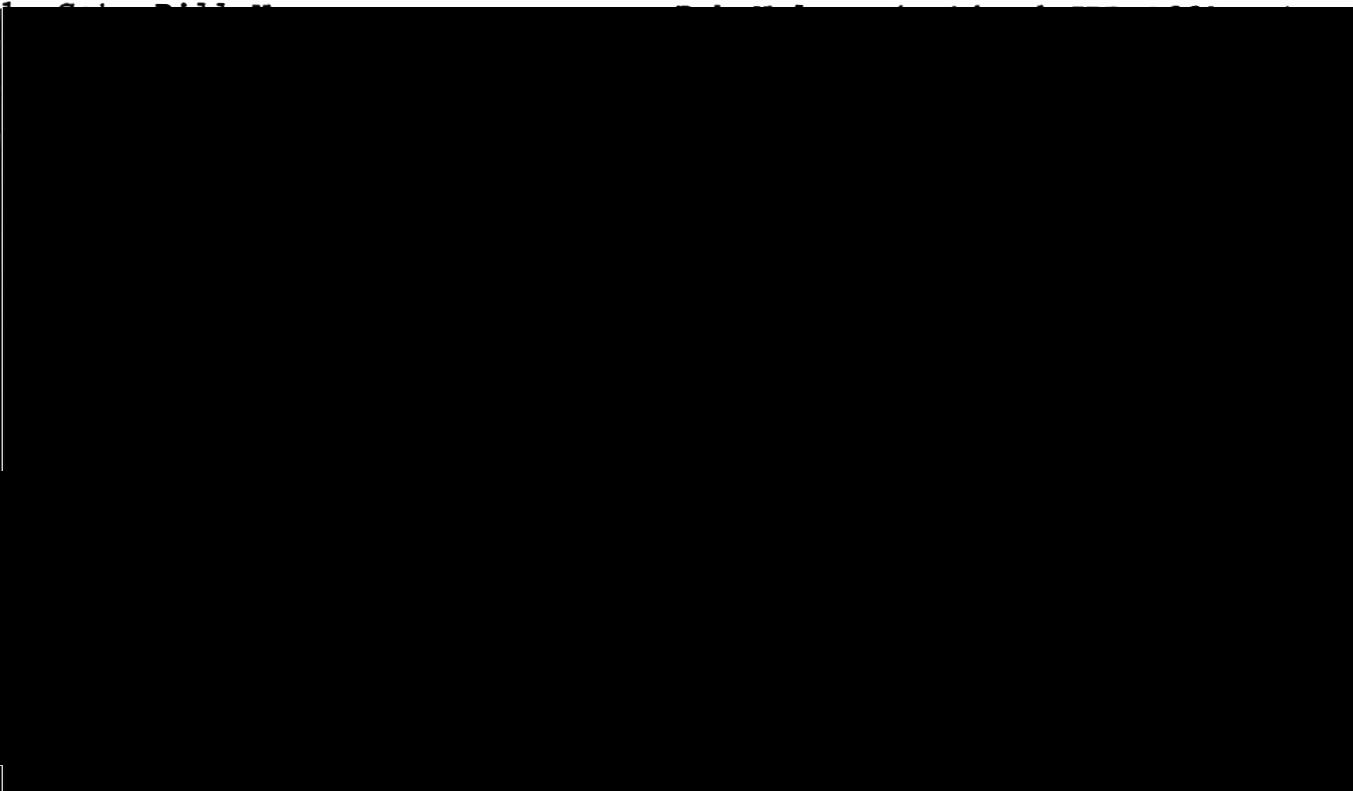
vs. )

Donald R. Simpson, Defendant. )

Case No. CR591-55FX

ANSWER TO DEFENDANT'S REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE  
BY COURT ORDER

COMES NOW David C. Dally, Prosecuting Attorney, within and for the County of Jasper, State of Missouri, and for his Answer to Defendant's Request for Disclosure by Court Order, states:



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MAR 12 1993  
JASPER COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK  
JOPLIN, MISSOURI

e) 09-04-89 and 10-03-89 Amarillo Police Department

f) Photo line-up containing six (6) photos; one photo of Simpson and five other similar subjects.

16. Overruled.

17. John B. Katura, 174188  
Jefferson City Correctional Center  
P.O. Box 900, State St.  
Jefferson City MO 65102

There is information that Katura participated in this crime but there is no physical evidence nor information that anyone else committed this crime besides Donald Simpson.

18. None.

19. Overruled.

20. Attached.

21. John B. Katura  
Jefferson City Correctional Center  
P.O. Box 900, State St.  
Jefferson City MO 65102

22. None.

23. Overruled.

24. Prints were "lifted" from the handcuffs.

25. Attached.

26. Attached (for Jasper County)

27. All lab reports have been provided and defense counsel has been given opportunity to review all materials and things and hereafter may review such material upon request.

28. All physical evidence may be viewed upon request.

*whose*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

David C. Dally,  
Prosecuting Attorney,  
Jasper County, Missouri  
Courts Building  
Sixth and Pearl, Room 100  
Joplin MO 64801  
(417)625-4314  
FAX (417)625-4315

I hereby certify that a copy  
of the foregoing was mailed  
or delivered this 13<sup>th</sup>  
day of MARCH, 1993,  
to the Attorney of record  
for the Defendant,  
Dee Wampler  
1200-C E. Woodhurst Drive  
Springfield MO 65804

[REDACTED]

1 wanted to stay.

2 Q. And go to Mexico?

3 A. Go somewhere, yes.

4 MR. CRANDALL: No further questions.

5 THE COURT: Anything else, Mr. Wampler?

6 MR. WAMPLER: No, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am, you're excused. Why  
8 don't you come around this way, ma'am.

9 [Witness excused]

10 \*\*\*

11 THE COURT: Call your next witness.

12 MR. CRANDALL: Carol Greene.

13 CAROL GREENE,

14 being duly sworn by the Court, testified as follows:

15 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. CRANDALL:

16 Q. State your name please.

17 A. Carol [REDACTED].

18 Q. You were formerly Carol Greene?

19 A. Right.

20 Q. Where do you live?

21 A. [REDACTED]; [REDACTED].

22 Q. Is that in Joplin?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What is your occupation or profession?

25 A. Security manager at [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]. I was deputy coroner at

1 the time.

2 Q. You were deputy coroner for Jasper County, Missouri?

3 A. Right.

4 Q. Were you acting in that capacity in July and August of  
5 1989?

6 A. Right.

7 Q. Did you--were you present at an autopsy performed on July  
8 31st, 1989?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Was that an autopsy performed on who you now understand  
11 to be J.D. Masters?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Would you describe for me the condition of the body as  
14 you saw it?

15 A. It was in a state of advanced decomposition.

16 Q. Was it skeletal in nature?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Was there any type of maggot infestation?

19 A. Very much so.

20 Q. What is the significance of the maggot infestation, if  
21 any?

22 A. Because the body was in such a bad shape, to determine  
23 time of death, sometimes we use maggot casings to  
24 determine the life span of a fly or a maggot. And I  
25 collected a maggot casings to try to determine--since fly

1 infestation is immediate, usually, upon the orifices of a  
2 dead body at death, I collected and determined there were  
3 two 14 day life cycles, give or take, probably, a few  
4 days. Depending on the heat, you might have a variance  
5 of three or four days in a case. The hotter it is, the  
6 faster the cycle might go.

7 Q. Let me show you State's Exhibit 34 and ask if you  
8 recognize this as the death certificate for Mr. Masters?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. In the upper right-hand corner, were you able to  
11 determine an approximate date of death?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What did you determine that approximate date of death to  
14 be?

15 A. July 7th.

16 Q. 1989?

17 A. Um-hum.

18 Q. Were you able to determine the cause of death?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Why is that?

21 A. Well, the state of decomposition, there were no marks to  
22 be found and there was no trauma to the body except for  
23 old trauma, there was old trauma there.

24 Q. Did you observe old trauma?

25 A. Yes.

# Missouri State Public Defender

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## INVESTIGATIVE MEMORANDUM

**Defendant:** Donald Simpson

**Case #:** CV194-483CC

**Attorney:** Margaret Elise Branyan

**Date of Request:** October 17, 1994

### Work Product

**Interview with:**

Lois Adams

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Home: [REDACTED]

Work: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

On October 18, 1994, at 1:52 PM, this investigator made contact with Lois Adams at the [REDACTED] in Joplin, MO, in reference to this matter. Adams told this investigator that back in the summer of 1989 she did hear Troy Shenfield say that he killed J.D. Masters. Adams stated her daughter, Amy Poulson, had run off to Wyoming with this Shenfield and once when she talked to Shenfield over the phone, he told her that he killed Masters. Adams said she doesn't remember if Shenfield mentioned anything about dragging him into the garage. Adams stated she doesn't know if Amy Poulson heard Shenfield tell her he killed Masters or not. Adams said we would have to talk to Amy to see what she remembered. Adams said she had never met Troy Shenfield or Donald Simpson, but she has seen Simpson on TV once after this happened. Adams stated she did receive phone calls from Donald Simpson several months back, where he would tell her he was not guilty of this, and wanted her to testify about what Shenfield told her. Adams said even though Simpson had called her, she was not expecting to hear from anyone.

This investigator also served Adams with a subpoena to testify on October 20, 1994, in Jasper County in this case.

No further information at this time.