

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women



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1990 Femicide Report Women and Children Murdered in Minnesota

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women monitors information about women and children murdered in our state to educate the public about the lethality of woman abuse and child abuse. We pledge to remember the women, children, and family members and/or friends who die each year from domestic violence and the woman and children who die while being used in prostitution - a system of violence against women and children. Women used in prostitution are battered women in need of protection from abuse. We also remember the women and children who were murdered by acquaintances, strangers, or unknown perpetrators.

We challenge communities to respond to battered women and their children by providing safe shelter and advocacy services, prevention education for all elementary and secondary students, laws to protect women and children, effective enforcement of those laws, and aggressive prosecution of all domestic assault crimes and all prostitution crimes targeting perpetrators, pimps, and "johns".

In Minnesota in 1990:

At least 16 women were murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former husband, boyfriend, intimate partner or household/family member of the woman.

6. Kate Hebert, 37**Lakeville****Missing on June 19, 1990
Body found Dec. 17, 1990**

Kate disappeared from the home of her estranged husband on the evening of June 19, 1990, following a domestic dispute. Her husband, Ricky Hebert, 37, was the last one to see Kate and claimed she walked away from the residence, leaving behind her purse, house keys, vehicle, and six-year-old daughter of whom she had legal custody. Ricky Hebert left the state of Minnesota the day after Kate was reported missing. He remained a suspect with the Lakeville Police Department for six months and finally returned from Louisiana on December 17th to lead authorities to the site where he had allegedly buried her, about 30 miles south of her home. Ricky has since been charged with second-degree murder. The case is scheduled to appear before a Grand Jury on January 25th, where the charge could either be changed to first-degree murder or dropped. Kate had previously received a court order for protection to protect her from abuse by Hebert. She was survived by two children ages 6 and 10.

7. Beverly Newell, 35**Minneapolis****June 20, 1990**

Beverly was killed in downtown Minneapolis outside the Hennepin County Government Center, where she worked. Her throat was slashed as she arrived for work. She told police and court officials that her former boyfriend, Hayden Taylor, 45, had been threatening and harassing her, and she went to court the day before she died to get a court order for protection to keep him away from her. The order was signed by a judge two hours after she died, before her identity was revealed. Taylor was convicted of intentional second-degree murder and second-degree murder while committing a felony, but acquitted of first-degree murder. Taylor was sentenced to 25 1/2 years, the maximum penalty for intentional murder. According to court records, there was a history of violence by Taylor against Beverly dating to 1987. Beverly's co-workers said Taylor threatened her the week before she died, saying he would kill her if she ended the relationship. Taylor said he had been drinking heavily and using drugs throughout the night before Newell was killed.

8. Cynthia Schegel-Wilson, 42**St. Louis Park****July 2, 1990**

Cynthia was found beaten and stabbed to death in her home after obtaining a court order for protection barring her estranged husband, Ron Wilson, 34, from contacting her. Ron Wilson turned himself in to police and has been charged with first-degree murder. Cynthia's daughter, Christina Schlegel, 24, reported being aware for a long time that her mother was being abused. Three days prior to her death, Cynthia had obtained a court order for protection because her husband had beaten and harassed her. She had also sought information and support from the Hopkins Project battered women's program. Police say a flammable liquid had been poured onto the floor of her home, apparently in the hopes a pilot light or some other spark might cause a fire and disguise the murder.

9. Linda Simmons, 40**Sunfish Lake****July 22, 1990**

Linda was killed by a gunshot wound to the head. Police say the shooting occurred two days after Linda had called police to report that her husband was drunk and breaking dishes. Police responding to the call took Simmons to the Dakota Co. Receiving Center for detoxification. Police reported there was no evidence of physical violence at the time, but decided to remove him from the house, and Simmons consented to go to detox. Detox authorities could have held Simmons but he was released by court order less than three hours after admittance. Dakota Co. District Judge William Thuet signed the order at the request of Attorney James O'Connell, who represented Simmons. O'Connell took Simmons to a motel and it is not known how he got home after that. On Sunday, Simmons called a friend to report that he had killed his wife. The couple's three children, two boys, ages 5 and 7, and an 18-month-old

cousin said, "He was just a normal guy as far as I know." A relative said Gosselin at one time threatened to kill Michelle and himself if she dated anyone else. Police found a calendar in the house with a note written on September 29th saying the couple had "broken up for the last time." Gosselin had suffered from alcoholism and drug dependency and underwent treatment for the addictions several years ago.

15. Magdaline George, 32

St. Paul

November 10, 1990

Magdaline's teenage daughter found her strangled to death in a closet of her apartment. Neighbors said there were frequent sounds of fighting coming from her apartment. One evening, a neighbor identified "sounds of someone choking and being thumped around." Four days prior to her death, another neighbor stated he heard a woman screaming for someone to call police. Police never came. Police records do not show any calls to Magdaline George's apartment. A former boyfriend, Ray Charles Vaughns, 38, was taken into custody. Charges were dropped due to insufficient evidence. She is survived by her 3 children.

16. Karen Casarez, 37

White Oak Twp.

December 27, 1990

Karen was pronounced dead at the hospital after being shot at twice. Her daughter, Corrie Casarez, 18, reported the shooting after her parents had a verbal altercation, where her father chased her mother around, then got his gun. Her Husband, James Casarez Sr., 42, was charged with second- degree murder. According to the Hubbard Co. Attorney in charge of the case, there were no incidents of previous domestic abuse reported since the family moved there four years ago, though James Casarez Sr. had been arrested in Ramsey County for prior incidents of domestic assault. According to the complaint, Casarez admitted shooting Karen Casarez, but said hitting her was accidental. She is survived by two adult children.

"1990 FEMICIDE REPORT - Women and Children Murdered" - is compiled from news accounts and information provided by law enforcement agencies, county attorneys, court administrators, battered women's programs, and family members and friends of murder victims. Please contact us if you have updated or more complete information on any homicide.

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