

information offered by the State. 725 ILCS 5/110-5.

Defendant Donnie Rudd (“defendant”) is initially charged by way of complaint for preliminary examination with the felony offenses of Murder, Ch. 38 ILCS 9-1(a)(1). The sentence shall be an indeterminate sentence set by the court. The minimum sentence shall be 14 years IDOC and the maximum sentence shall be any sentence in excess of 14 years IDOC.

II. Defendant:

Defendant is currently 73 years old. He was 31 years old at the time of the offense. Defendant has been living in Texas for more than twenty years. Defendant is not married.

III. THE FACTS:

The defendant and victim, 19 year old Noreen Rudd, both worked at Quaker Oats in Barrington in 1973. The defendant was a patent attorney. They decided to get married shortly after they started dating in 1973. The victim had a serious boyfriend who had recently died in an auto accident. The defendant and victim were married on August 18, 1973.

Twenty seven days after they were married, on Friday, September 14, 1973, at approximately 11:27 p.m., police responded to a dispatch of a motor vehicle accident at Route 63 and Bateman Road. Route 63 is now Route 68, or Dundee Road. At that time, Route 63 was a rural area in Barrington Hills. Route 63 consisted of one eastbound lane and one westbound lane. The Rudd’s vehicle, a 1972 Pinto Wagon, was in a grassy area that contained light shrubbery southwest of the intersection of Route 63 and Bateman Road. The weather that evening was clear. Responding officers found the Rudds in the front seat of their car. The defendant was sitting in the front passenger seat with the victim’s head in his lap and the victim’s feet on the driver’s side. The victim was not breathing. The officers removed the victim from the car. An officer attempted mouth to mouth resuscitation and when he did so, he felt a large hole on the back of the victim’s head. Officers were unable to revive her. An ambulance took her to Sherman Hospital where she was pronounced dead on arrival.

The Rudds’ car struck a barbed wire fence. A responding officer noted

approximately 165 feet of skid marks in the grass from Route 63. The skid marks were consistent with the car having driven in a fairly straight line from Route 63 to its final resting point. That officer observed minor damage on the car.

The defendant was interviewed at the scene. The defendant said that he was going down Rt. 63 on his way home when a car came into his lane. He said that he honked his horn and put his bright lights on, but the other driver remained in his lane. The defendant said that he drove off the road and the victim's door came open. He said he grabbed for the victim but she was thrown from the car and when he found her she was missing the back of her head. The D pointed out a large rock to an officer that appeared to have hair and blood on it. The defendant said this must be the rock that the victim struck her head on when she was thrown from the vehicle.

No autopsy was conducted, and a coroner's inquest concluded that the victim's death was an accident. A witness who helped prepare the victim's body at the funeral home observed severe trauma to the victim's head, and had to hold the victim's head while another person "filled the holes."

In 2013, the victim's body was exhumed and an autopsy was conducted by pathologist Hilary McElligott of the Kane County Coroner's Office. Dr. McElligott observed lacerations and subgaleal hemorrhages on the right and left sides of the victim's head. She observed a complex branching fracture of the left side of the skull. Dr. McElligott changed the cause of death to craniocerebral injuries due to blunt force trauma. Dr. McElligott concluded that the manner of death was homicide.

Dr. Mary Case, the Chief Medical Examiner for St. Louis, St. Charles, Jefferson and Franklin Counties in Missouri, reviewed the autopsy photographs and other reports and photographs. Dr. Case is one of fewer than fifteen pathologists in the country who are board certified in both neuro and forensic pathology. Dr. Case concluded that the victim's injuries were inconsistent with having been thrown from the vehicle and were not consistent with hitting a rock on the ground. Dr. Case opined that any impact from the victim's head having struck the door on her way out of the car would have been minimal. Dr. Case concluded that the victim's injuries were consistent with multiple impacts to the head and that her death was a homicide.

Dr. Stephen Cina, Chief Medical Examiner of Cook County, also reviewed the autopsy report and other reports and photographs. Dr. Cina concluded that the

victim's head injuries were the result of two blunt force trauma impacts, and that the victim's head injuries were the result of an assault rather than the result of a low-speed motor vehicle accident with or without ejection of the victim. Dr. Cina concluded that the victim's death was a homicide.

Prior to marrying the victim, Donnie Rudd was living with his girlfriend in a home they shared with her three daughters. According to one of those daughters, who was a teenager at the time, she found out that the defendant was marrying the victim when the defendant came home one day and announced that he was marrying Noreen. The defendant's girlfriend was shocked and unhappy. The defendant and his girlfriend spent that night in their bedroom with the door closed. The next day, the defendant married the victim. When he was interviewed in 2013, the defendant told police that he and his girlfriend had sex the night before he married the victim. The defendant moved back in with his girlfriend approximately one week after the victim's death. He married this girlfriend 8 months later.

Following the victim's death, the defendant told his girlfriend's daughter that a well-known politician, who he named, had sent a hit man to get him and the hit man forced him off the road. He said that the victim was sleeping in the car when this happened. The defendant told the daughter that the victim fell out of the car after it stopped, and struck her head on the car door as she fell out of the car.

After the victim died, the defendant received life insurance payouts on two policies that were taken out on the victim. The victim and the defendant would have had to have been married at the time in order for him to be a beneficiary. The first policy paid out was a policy that all employees of Quaker Oats received. It included an initial lump sum plus 25% of the employee's salary for five years. This amounted to approximately \$20,000.

The second policy was a "Voluntary Accident Insurance" policy, which was offered as extra insurance to the employees at an additional fee. The amount of coverage available ranged from \$10,000 to \$100,000, and the fee for the coverage increased with the amount of coverage. The victim had taken out the maximum policy, or \$100,000.

Donnie Rudd was interviewed by Arlington Heights Police Detectives in 2013. When asked what happened to the victim, he initially said that the victim

died inside the car. Later he said he did not remember whether she left the car. When he was shown a photo of the victim as she appeared near time he married her, he said that he did not know who she was.

1991 Murder

Noreen Rudd's case was reopened in 2013 by the Arlington Heights Police Department, who also re-opened the investigation into the murder of Laurreta Tabak-Bodtke, which occurred on April 4, 1991. The defendant was a suspect in Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke's murder.

Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke was a successful interior designer who had hired the defendant to represent her in a lawsuit against her business partner pertaining to the dissolution of their interior design business. Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke and her husband lived in an upscale townhome development in Arlington Heights. Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke was found lying in a pool of blood in her kitchen by her husband, at approximately 7:30 p.m. on April 4, 1991. Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke was shot four times in the head at close range. There was no sign of a break-in or a struggle. Evidence indicates that Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke was likely killed at approximately 3:20 p.m., when a resident of an adjoining townhouse heard what were probably the gunshots that killed her.

Two of the victim's neighbors observed the defendant's car, a white compact car with vanity plates MR CONDO, parked in Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke's driveway on April 4th at 12:30 p.m. and saw a white male carrying a briefcase. These neighbors, who are now deceased, saw the defendant's car leave Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke's home at 3:30 p.m.

Another neighbor, observed a white compact car with vanity plates MR CONDO in Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke's driveway on April 4th at 9:20 a.m. when she was going to work. This neighbor's husband also observed the white compact car with vanity plates MR CONDO in Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke's driveway from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. when he left for work. This neighbor returned home around 2:30 -2:45 p.m. and saw the same car in Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke's driveway. At approximately 3:19 p.m., this neighbor was sending a fax in the lower level of his condominium when he heard 4-5 quick "footsteps" coming from what he believed was the upper level of his townhouse. When he checked the upstairs he found nothing out of the ordinary. This neighbor's townhouse is adjacent to Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke's residence. Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke's last conversation was a phone conversation on her home phone at 3:02 p.m. on April 4th with a cabinet contractor. Mrs. Tabak-

Bodtke's daughter tried calling her several times later that afternoon and Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke never answered.

When interviewed by the police in 1991, the defendant said that he left Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke's home at 3:00 p.m.

The defendant had told Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke that he had settled her case for several hundred thousand dollars and would wire the funds into her bank account. Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke checked with the bank numerous times prior to April 4th, and the money was never deposited. Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke had recently threatened to report the defendant to the ARDC. There had been several complaints filed with the ARDC against Rudd alleging similar complaints: that Rudd promised clients settlement money that was never actually negotiated or even contemplated by the parties. The defendant promised clients that settlements were ordered by a court and then wrote smaller personal checks to the client as evidence of payment to support the claim that their settlements were forthcoming. Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke's husband saw a personal check from the defendant in the amount of \$9,300.00 at their home the night before the murder. The check was not found at the scene by the police. A subsequent search of the defendant's home led to the seizure of torn pieces of what is believed to be the missing check. When he testified before the Grand Jury in 1992, the defendant acknowledged that the torn check pieces appeared to be from his checkbook and contained the numbers "300" and part of the word "ninety."

When the defendant was interviewed in 2013, he said that when police searched his home on the evening of Mrs. Tabak-Bodtke's murder, they asked him for the clothing he was wearing that day. The defendant said that he gave the police different clothing, and that he gave his lawyer the actual clothing he was wearing that day. When asked by police why he didn't give the police the right clothes, the defendant responded that he didn't think it would be good idea. That lawyer is now deceased and the clothing has never been located.

IV. Bond Recommendation:

Section 5/110-5 of the Illinois Code of Criminal Procedure sets forth criteria relevant to determining the amount of bail and conditions of release. 725 ILCS 5/110-5. In particular, the Court may consider that the offense involved the use of violence and the defendant's ties to the community. Based upon matters discussed herein, the People of the State of Illinois recommend that this Honorable Court set

a substantial bond in this case, and that this Court, as special conditions of release, bar the defendant from possession any firearms and surrender all firearms now in her possession.

Respectfully submitted,

ANITA ALVAREZ
STATE'S ATTORNEY OF COOK
COUNTY

BY: Maria McCarthy
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David Coleman
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