

Girl Dies in Attack

NAPLES — A 20-year-old Naples man was in critical condition Friday after an attack by intruders that left his younger sister dead.

Michael and Laura Ford had both been beaten on the head when police found them late Thursday at their home in a wealthy section of Naples, police said.

Detective Sgt. Irv Stoddard said police have recovered what might be the murder weapon, but are awaiting test results to be sure. Miss Ford, 15, had been dead since Wednesday night or Thursday morning, Stoddard said.

Anderson asks lawyer be removed

News-Press Bureau

NAPLES — Arnold Anderson, charged with the rape and murder of a Naples teenager, reportedly has asked that an assistant public defender be taken off his case.

No official motion had appeared in Anderson's court file late Monday on the request. However, sources said Anderson has drawn up the motion himself and will submit it to Circuit Judge Harold S. Smith.

Anderson reportedly is unhappy with Dennis Rehak, the assistant public defender assigned to his case, because he thinks the attorney hasn't shown enough interest in the case. Rehak Monday said he will not comment on the reported request from Anderson.

The defendant is charged in the July 6 death of Laura Ford and the beating of her brother Michael. The pair were attacked in their home at 306 Yucca Road in the Coquina Sands area in Naples.

Anderson has filed a neatly printed motion on his own behalf, asking for a change of venue in his case.

The motion, signed by Anderson and notarized by a jailer, asks that the trial, now scheduled for Monday, be moved out of Collier County because of "adverse publicity."

That motion was returned by Smith Monday, with no action taken. The judge noted only that the public defender had not signed the motion, but Smith did not rule on the request.

Again, Rehak would not comment on whether he intends to file a motion for change of venue on Anderson's behalf.

The attorney has made several visits to his client, but Anderson reportedly has demanded more personal attention.

Anderson has not indicated officially whether he wants a different attorney, or wishes to represent himself.

His trial, on charges of murder, involuntary sexual battery, aggravated sexual battery on Michael Ford, attempted arson and burglary, has been continued once and is expected to be delayed at least another month.

Accused killer says his lawyer might fear him

By MARK STEPHENS
Collier Bureau Chief

NAPLES — Accused killer Arnold Anderson says his attorney hasn't visited him enough and might be afraid of him.

Those were among Anderson's accusations Tuesday against an obviously upset Dennis Rehak, the assistant public defender assigned to defend the man accused of the July 6 rape and murder of Laura Ford.

Circuit Judge Harold Smith delayed ruling on Anderson's request for a new lawyer, pending disposition Monday of a prose-

cution motion for the defendant to stand in another line-up.

Rehak would not comment Tuesday when asked if he intends to ask to be withdrawn from Anderson's defense against charges of murder, involuntary sexual battery, aggravated battery on Ms. Ford's brother Michael, burglary and attempted arson.

But he told Smith, "I would agree there have been harsh words between us. I have no desire to force myself upon him."

Anderson has been drawing up his own handwritten motions, including one to move the trial out of Collier County because of "adverse publicity," which Smith refuses

to consider without Rehak's counter signature. Tuesday, the judge granted Anderson's request to have copies made of statutes and rules of criminal procedure for his own study.

Anderson contends Rehak failed to give him those copies, though the attorney says he was only served Tuesday with the formal request.

Quoting from a letter he sent Rehak Sept. 29 demanding a visit from the attorney by Oct. 5, Anderson complained the public defender's investigator was present during an earlier interview.

"Did you feel you needed protection," Anderson asked in the letter.

The defendant also claimed an investigator had asked him if he knew the whereabouts of weapons reported taken from the Ford home in the Coquina Sands area of Naples.

Anderson then claimed that Rehak later told him he had been "testing" the defendant, a claim that brought surprise to Rehak's face.

Rehak said he had visited Anderson in his cell "several times" more than the two personal contacts the defendant claimed.

He emphasized the case is still in "the

preparation stage," and is unlikely to come to trial for several months, so the intensive consultation Anderson wants isn't necessary yet.

The case is set for trial Monday, but attorneys for both sides expect more continuances.

Prosecutors say Anderson was identified in a photo line-up by Michael Ford, who was severely beaten in the attack, and by three people in two other photo lineups, who claim they saw Anderson in the vicinity of the Ford home in the early morning hours of July 7.

Accused killer is granted request for new defender

By **MARK STEPHENS**
Collier Bureau Chief

NAPLES — Accused murderer Arnold Anderson got rid of one lawyer Monday, and his new attorney already has served notice he won't let the defendant give the orders.

Circuit Judge Harold Smith granted Anderson's request to be relieved of the services of Assistant Public Defender Dennis Rehak, who Anderson says didn't visit him often enough in his jail cell.

Smith said he would "recommend" to Public Defender Douglas Midgley that Rehak be replaced by his immediate boss, Robert Hines, the supervising assistant public defender in the Naples office.

Midgley and Rehak huddled for almost two hours with Anderson last Thursday in county jail, trying to resolve the defendant's problems with Rehak.

Anderson is held without bond, awaiting his trial on charges that he raped and murdered Laura Ford, 14, and savagely beat her older brother after entering their Coquina Sands home.

The trial, scheduled tentatively for today, has

been delayed for at least another month and probably longer.

Midgley could not be reached to say if he accepts Smith's recommendation, but the reassignment was being accepted as final in the Naples public defender's office late Monday.

Smith refused to give Anderson what he wants — a private attorney from outside the public defender's office, appointed by the court and paid for from public monies.

Smith told Anderson he wouldn't hire a private attorney "simply because you think you can get a better trial with one. You can't, and in the second place, you're not entitled to it."

At Hines suggestion, Smith advised Anderson that he has the right to represent himself, but the defendant said he did not want to.

Earlier, Hines said if he were placed on Anderson's case, "I'm going to advise the court and Mr. Anderson that the defense will be conducted as I see fit, and not as Mr. Anderson wants it to be conducted."

Anderson has filed several handprinted motions on his own.

Lawyer taken off Anderson case leaving post

News-Press Bureau

NAPLES — The attorney recently relieved as counsel for accused sex slayer Arnold Anderson is resigning from the public defender's office.

Dennis Rehak, who was taken off the case after Anderson asked for a new lawyer, said Monday he had intended to leave the office soon to return to his home state of Ohio.

But he said the flap over the Anderson case has "speeded up" his departure.

Rehak is one of two attorneys who work in the Naples branch of the public defender's office under Robert Hines, the supervising attorney. The other, Paul Dickson, also is leaving the office, at the end of November.

Monday, Public Defender Douglas Midgley said he hasn't received Rehak's letter of resigna-

tion, in which Rehak says he cites no reasons for his departure. He also says he as yet has no replacements in mind for Rehak or Dickson.

Midgley said Rehak's resignation was "entirely voluntary," and that every attorney under him "enjoys my confidence or I dismiss him."

He said he and Rehak had disagreements about the handling of the case of Anderson, who had complained publicly that Rehak didn't visit him often enough in jail, and was physically afraid of him.

Anderson, 25, is charged in the July 1978 rape and murder of Laura Ford, 14, and the beating of her brother, Michael. Midgley last week went along with a judge's recommendation that Rehak be removed from the case, and indicated he might assist Hines personally in the defense.

But he refused to comment on whether Rehak had mishandled the case.

Rehak, who has been in the public defender's office for about two years, now will go into private practice in his hometown of Caldwell, Ohio. He said he would handle the Anderson case the same if he had it to do again, and "I refuse to descend into petty justifications for what I've done. My reputation speaks for itself."

His resignation from the \$18,700-per-year job is effective Dec. 18.

Midgley, who is seeking re-election Nov. 7, said he is having the Naples office remodeled to include a permanent office for himself, and plans to play a more active role in supervision there because of an increased Collier County caseload.

New attorney sought for Anderson trial

By MARK STEPHENS

NAPLES — Accused murderer Arnold Anderson tried Tuesday for the second time to get rid of his attorney but this time the judge said no.

"You have an adequate lawyer," an impatient Circuit Judge Harold S. Smith told Anderson Tuesday, refusing to grant his motion to have Robert Hines, supervising public defender in Naples, removed in favor of a private attorney paid at public expense.

Smith recommended last month that Anderson's original public defender, Dennis Rehak, be replaced by Hines after Anderson said Rehak didn't cooperate with him.

"Your lawyer is not your servant," Smith told Anderson Tuesday. "He doesn't have to yield to every demand."

Anderson, 25, is charged in the July 6 rape and murder of Laura Ford, 14, of Naples, and the severe beating of her 19-year-old brother Michael. He has pleaded innocent, but has complained that the attorneys assigned to him so far don't believe his version of events at the time of the killing.

Anderson, continuing his practice of filing his own motions, also lost a bid to challenge the grand jury indictments against him and to confront witnesses and view the evidence against him.

When he asked for a "pamphlet" on criminal procedure, Smith said he had never heard of the publication, and asked, "What guardhouse lawyer told you about that one?"

Anderson has refused to represent himself, but insists he isn't getting the cooperation he wants from the public defender's office.

Smith has said he will not relieve the public defender's office of the case, and Public Defender Douglas Midgley has said Hines will remain Anderson's attorney.

Hines said he will file a motion to move the case outside of the 20th Judicial Circuit because of adverse publicity about Anderson.

Smith indicated he was ready to rule Tuesday on that motion.

The trial is scheduled for this month, but additional delays are expected.



ARNOLD ANDERSON WALKS THROUGH DOOR ON WAY TO HEARING
... he was denied a new attorney at the court procedure

News-Press/Mark Stephens

Judge decides to move murder trial from Naples

News-Press Bureau

NAPLES — A circuit judge has decided to move the trial of murder and rape suspect Arnold Anderson outside Naples, probably to LaBelle in Hendry County.

Circuit Judge Harold S. Smith Monday granted the change of venue asked by Assistant Public Defender Robert Hines.

But Smith has yet to rule on whether the case should be moved outside the 20th Judicial Circuit.

"My basic plan as of right now is to move it to LaBelle," Smith said Monday. Hines has said he will ask specifically that the case be moved all

the way outside the five-county circuit to avoid the effect of publicity about the murder and rape of Laura Ford, 14, found dead last July in her Naples home.

But Smith said he hasn't received a formal motion from Hines to move the case to a new circuit, and hasn't made up his mind on the issue.

Hines had argued that saturation news coverage of the case, also involving the severe beating of Miss Ford's brother Michael, in Naples and surrounding coverage had made it unlikely an unbiased jury can be found in Naples or surrounding counties.

Hendry county has a population of about 16,000 people from which to draw a jury, compared to more than 70,000 for Collier County.

Anderson murder trial will be in Hendry County

News-Press Bureau

NAPLES — Circuit Judge Harold Smith is not going to move the trial of murder and rape suspect Arnold Anderson, set for Feb. 19, out of the 20th circuit, he said Saturday.

But the trial is being moved from Naples to the Hendry County Courthouse in Labelle, Smith said. "I didn't see any reason to move it out of the circuit."

Public Defender Robert Hines had asked the judge to move the trial out of the five-county circuit because of pre-trial publicity about the murder and rape of Laura Ford, 14, found dead last July in her Naples home.

Finding a jury in the circuit that has not been affected by heavy publicity about the case would be unlikely, Hines argued.

Smith rejected that notion saying that a check of the Hendry County area showed that few people have heard about the Anderson case.

Anderson, 25, a former City of Naples employee, is also charged with severely beating Laura's brother Michael, 19, and attempted arson.

2 — CITY EMPLOYEE CHARGED — Arnold Anderson, 25, a truck driver for the City of Naples, was charged with the murder and rape of 14-year-old Laura Ford as she slept in her Coquina Sands home. Anderson also was charged with the bludgeon beating of her brother, Michael, 19, the same night. Anderson is in Collier County Jail awaiting trial.
