

# Man charged in slaying of Sarasota baby-sitter

By The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD — A 35-year-old man was arrested Sunday in the slaying of a 13-year-old girl whose body was found after she was reported missing from her baby-sitting job.

Bruce O. Barbre was charged with first-degree murder and kidnapping in the apparent stabbing death of Cristina Root, according to the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department. He was being held without bond late Sunday at the Sarasota

County Jail.

Christina had been reported missing early Sunday after Juli and Robert Peretz returned to their Sarasota County home to find the girl gone, according to a news release from sheriff's Lt. William Stookey.

The teen-ager had last been seen at 7 p.m. Saturday by the Peretzes as they left for an evening out, Stookey said.

A deputy patrolling in a nearby county park had come across Barbre about an hour after Christina was reported missing. Barbre, who had

cuts on his neck, was sitting in the passenger side of a vehicle, Stookey said.

Barbre, who initially claimed he had been abducted along with Christina, later led detectives to the girl's body at a wooded site a few miles from the Peretzes' home, Stookey said.

Further details, including how and when Christina was abducted, were not immediately released. But Stookey said items belonging to Christina were still at the Peretzes' home when the couple returned.