

## MAN ACCUSED OF RAPES TO UNDERGO TEST

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The man accused of seven northwest Detroit rapes was ordered Thursday to undergo a psychiatric examination, and the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office said he might be charged with five additional sexual assaults.

Defense lawyer Carole Stanyar asked that **Michael Champion** be examined by the Recorder's Court Psychiatric Clinic to determine if he is mentally competent to face trial. Stanyar said she had "serious difficulties" trying to communicate with him and doubts "Mr. Champion's ability to assist in his own defense."

Assistant Prosecutor Kevin Simowski opposed the examination, saying Champion had no trouble communicating at his arraignment when his sarcastic wisecracks angered Magistrate C. Lorene Royster.

Visiting Judge James Montante ordered the examination, saying he accepted Stanyar's assertion, and rescheduled Champion's preliminary examinations for Oct. 7 and Oct. 12.

Champion, 32, is charged with seven sexual attacks in northwest Detroit, but police believe he is responsible for as many as 20 assaults between September 1987 and August. If convicted, he faces a maximum life sentence.

Outside court, Simowski said Highland Park Police are preparing warrant requests against Champion in connection with five rapes in that city.

Simowski said he expects to get the requests this week or early next week and will determine if there is enough evidence to issue warrants.

Simowski also ruled out any negotiated pleas for Champion, who won reduced sentences after being charged in two earlier crime sprees.

"Absolutely not," Simowski said.

In 1974, Champion avoided a possible life sentence by testifying against fellow members of a murder-torture gang that had terrorized several northwest Detroit neighborhoods. In that case he pleaded guilty to an assault charge and was imprisoned until 1979.

Within two months of his release, he was charged with several armed robberies and assaults, but again pleaded guilty to a reduced charge and was given a five-to-15-year sentence.

Champion was released from prison in June 1987, shortly before the series of rapes he is charged with began, and completed his parole in July 1988.

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