

MOM HAD ONE LAST VISIT BEFORE FAMILY WAS KILLED

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Diane Pesce visited with her **family** not long **before** someone shot them to death execution-style in their Livonia home, her father said Tuesday.

She sat in an Ann Arbor rehabilitation facility Saturday as Marco Pesce, who **had** divorced her in April after a troubled relationship addled by her drug use, extended an invitation.

Marco Pesce told her she **was** welcome home to **visit** their three children anytime.

"The house is open. It's your place. It's open anytime," Samuel Jameel recounted Tuesday. "It's your house."

Not long after heading home, Marco, 38, and the kids -- Carlo, 12; Sabrina, 9, and Melissa, 6 -- were **killed** along with Maria Vergati, 68, Pesce's mother who **was** visiting from Italy.

Jameel said he spoke with his daughter Monday.

"Her tears, they wouldn't stop," he said.

Livonia Police Executive Lt. Benjamin McDermott said Tuesday he couldn't comment on the investigation or on Jameel's account of the Pesce **family**'s final hours.

Earlier, McDermott said Diane Pesce **had** been questioned and **was** not a suspect. Police have said robbery may have been a motive in the killings. The **family**'s St. Martins Street home **was** ransacked and items were missing.

Jameel said his daughter told him the **family** left Ann Arbor about 5:45 p.m. Saturday for the half-hour drive to their home in a subdivision north of 7 Mile. Marco Pesce then went to work at his nearby Italia jewelry store on 7 Mile.

Carlo Pesce soon called his father at the store and said there **was** a problem with **one** of his sisters, something "serious," Jameel said his daughter told him.

On Monday, police said Carlo Pesce called the store about 5:45 p.m. Someone at the store called the Pesce home about 7:15 p.m. and got no answer, police said.

Jameel said he doesn't know who might have **killed** the **family** .

"It looks like people with no conscience," he said. "They didn't have to kill the kids. It could be someone with a grudge, maybe revenge. I don't know."

He said he has not come to terms with the brutality of the deaths.

"Everyone's in grief," he said at his home in Plymouth. "It is something which is unbelievable. They **killed** the whole **family** . They have no conscience, no remorse. It hurts a lot. We keep crying.

"Whoever did this, they're worse than animals. They're sick. Even animals know how to take care of each other."

Jameel said his daughter may go to the house with police to select burial clothing for the children. The Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Livonia is handling arrangements, which were pending.

According to court records, Diane Pesce has a history of going in and out of drug treatment programs. During divorce proceedings this year, Wayne County Circuit Judge Kathleen McCarthy ordered her to admit herself to an in-patient program and then attend at least three Narcotics Anonymous meetings a week.

Marco Pesce filed for divorce three times, saying his wife **was** addicted to crack cocaine and **had** taken their children to drug houses while she bought narcotics.

In January, Pesce won a court ruling granting him temporary custody of the children and ordering his wife to move out of their home because of her drug use.

Marco Pesce first filed for divorce in January 1998. At the time, he **was** granted a personal protection order against his wife. The case **was** dismissed in April 1998, apparently because the two reconciled.

Jameel said his daughter and her ex-husband may have fought occasionally, but the disagreements were minor. Jameel said he didn't know about drug use, but his daughter **had** problems with depression and may have **had** a breakdown.

On Tuesday, he preferred to remember his grandchildren.

Carlo **was** the smart **one** , Jameel said. About eight months ago, he scored way above average on an intelligence test. Sabrina **was** quiet and serious. Melissa, the youngest, **was** "a real honey."

"She **was** always happy."

He paused and bent his head.

"Oh, my God."

A reward of at least \$50,000 is being offered for information leading to an arrest and conviction, police said. Anyone with information may call police at 734-466-2470.

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Caption: Photo

Marco Pesce, 38 Maria Vergati, 68 Carlo Pesce, 12 Sabrina Pesce, 9 Melissa Pesce, 6

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