

SUSPECT'S EXTRADITION IN MURDER CASE FINAL

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A former nurse's aide accused of killing a 98-year-old nursing home patient will be returned to Michigan early next week from Texas after agreeing to waive extradition proceedings.

Gwendolyn Graham, held in the Smith County Jail near Tyler, Texas, on \$1 million bond since early December, ended her extradition fight Tuesday.

Graham, 25, is charged in the April 7, 1987, death of Edith Cook at Alpine Manor Nursing Home in this Grand Rapids suburb.

Another suspect, Catherine Wood, told police **Graham** used a washcloth to suffocate Cook and several other patients between January and May 1987, according to court documents.

Walker Police Chief Walter Sprenger said officers will pick up **Graham** in Texas either Tuesday or Wednesday.

Wood, 26, a former nurse's aide supervisor at the home, has been ordered to stand trial on two counts of open murder in the deaths of Cook and another patient, 60-year-old Marguerite Chambers. Police suspect the pair may have killed as many as eight patients at the home.

Graham did not explain why she was dropping the extradition fight, said Tyler District Judge Bill Coats.

"She just wanted to get it over with," Coats said. "They get tired of sitting in these jails, but I imagine she'll get tired up there, too."

Assistant Kent County Prosecutor David Schieber said **Graham** will be arraigned almost immediately upon her arrival in Walker and that a preliminary hearing would follow within 12 days.

Schieber said there will be separate trials for the women.

CUTLINE

Gwendolyn Graham, 25, charged killing a nursing home patient, has ended her extradition fight from Texas.

Caption: Photo

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