

## **Witness in slayings of two boys dies - 'No signs of foul play,' police say, in death of woman suspected of driving the getaway car.**

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DETROIT -- A key **witness in** the case against six suspects charged **in** connection with the execution-style **slayings of two boys** apparently has died **of** a drug overdose.

Lenore Sims, who was accused **of** driving the getaway car after the Feb. 23 drug-related murders, was discovered dead March 2 **in** the bedroom **of** a home she shared with Charles Moore, who is charged **in** the **slayings** .

Sims remained **in** the car during the shooting, police said, but told authorities that Moore named the **two** people who shot 11-year-old Darren Johnson **of** Oak Park and 13-year-old Orlando Herron **of** Detroit.

Police believe Sims, 43, died **of** an overdose **of** crack cocaine, but the cause **of** death is undetermined, pending the results **of** a toxicology report, which could take up to 12 weeks to complete, said the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office.

"There were no signs **of** foul play," said Detroit police spokesman James Tate.

The family buried Sims on Sunday and awaits results **of** an autopsy, said her brother, William Sims.

The twist **in** the case was revealed **in** court Monday when the defendants appeared for a preliminary hearing at 36th District Court **in** Detroit.

Sims' death was discussed **in** court when Sonya O'Neal's attorney, David Steingold, asked for telephone and visitation privileges to be restored to his client.

The privileges had been suspended because O'Neal asked Sims to change her testimony, said Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Elizabeth Walker.

Judge Kenneth King agreed to restore O'Neal's phone privileges but barred visitors.

The preliminary exam was rescheduled for March 23.

Caption: Sonya O'Neal is one **of** six charged **in** the execution-style **slayings of two boys** . Her attorney is David Steingold.

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