

Defense wants alleged confessions thrown out in Stempel kidnap case

By ALICE COLLINS

Attorneys for the two men accused of kidnapping 13-year-old Timothy Stempel are trying to have statements reportedly made by their clients after their arrests ruled inadmissible as evidence when the case goes to trial.

The statements—alleged to be confessions—were reportedly made on Nov. 14 by Darryl E. Wilson, 22, and Clinton Williams, 19.

Defense attorneys Curtis Rundell of Southfield and Donald A. Brown of Troy have filed motions before Oakland County Circuit Court Judge John N. O'Brien for suppression of the statements and the court set 9 a.m. Friday (Jan. 9) to hear arguments on the twin motions.

During a pre-trial hearing on Dec. 31, O'Brien said he would defer ruling on earlier defense motions to move the trial out of the Oakland County-Detroit area until after the admissibility of the defendants' statements is determined.

OAKLAND COUNTY Prosecuting

Attorney L. Brooks Patterson said copies of the statements have been given to both defense attorneys in addition, Patterson said he understood tape recorded interviews between the defendants and police existed. "We're now attempting to collect these tapes from the various police agencies, and we'll have them transcribed" for presentation at the Friday hearing, he said.

Wilson and Williams have been in custody since their arrests by FBI, Bloomfield Township and state police four days after the Nov. 10 abduction of the son of General Motors executive Robert C. Stempel and his wife, Patricia.

"There's been a lot of talk about these statements ever since they were following," said Rundell in an interview following the Dec. 31 court appearance.

"But the first time we officially heard about them first hand was at the preliminary hearing in district court. At that hearing, 48th District Court Judge Carl P. Ingraham heard the case over to Oakland County Circuit Court.

"IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING," said Rundell, "that only two FBI agents were present when my client (Wilson) made his statement."

Rundell and Brown said they would present Ann Arbor Attorney Nancy Francis as a witness at Friday's hearing. "She told us she attempted to see the defendants after their arrests," said Rundell.

"We understand she went to the Ypsilanti State Police post, made it known that she was available to see them and wanted to see them," he continued. "And we know she didn't see them."

O'Brien has lowered \$100,000 bonds against both defendants to \$50,000 cash and surety bonds, and last Wednesday, denied a motion by Prosecuting Attorney Patterson to restore them to the original amount.

"We strongly oppose the reductions in the bonds," declared Patterson. "This was a deliberate, violent crime not one of passion," he charged.

PATTERSON and the defense attorneys indicated they would await the outcome of rulings on the motions before deciding whether to move for separate trials for the two defendants. As it stands now, both Williams and Wilson are named in the same charges.

The defense has requested that the trial be moved out of Oakland "because of the saturation of publicity"

that surrounded the abduction and the "massive kidnap fear that has permeated Oakland County ever since the disappearance six months ago of James R. Hoffa."

Rundell and Brown also have argued that the defendants, both black, would be unable to have a "jury of their peers" with a panel selected in "white, high-income, middle-class Oakland County."

PATTERSON said the state is opposed to a change in venue in the case because of the inconvenience and additional cost to taxpayers of moving the trial out of the county.

"We should at least attempt to seat a jury here and see what happens before deciding to go elsewhere," said Patterson.

Rundell and Brown said they understood the families of their clients were attempting to raise bond money for the release of the pair. "But it's a lot of money for these people to raise," said Rundell.

Late Friday, the bookings department at the Oakland County Jail said there had been no indication that bond was about to be posted for either of the two prisoners.

Timothy Stempel was abducted early in the evening of Nov. 10 while skateboarding near his Chatham Trail home in Bloomfield Township. He was held in the trunk of a car more than two days and released after a \$150,000 ransom was delivered.

Business classes are being offered

A series of courses in business skills and techniques, as well as one about business practices and investing, will be offered in the Farmington Community Education winter term.

The evening classes begin the week of Jan. 12. Registrations are being accepted at the adult education office in the board of education building.

BEGINNING TYPING is a basic, introductory course with drills for speed and accuracy. Monday, 7:10 p.m. Room 102 C. \$15.

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