

# Accused rapist waives examination

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 bind his client over for trial.

SZEMAN IS charged with attacks on 10 females, ages 12-61, from April 1987 to March 1988 in Farmington Hills, Bloomfield Township, Birmingham, West Bloomfield Township and Independence Township.

He is being held in an individual cell at the Oakland County Jail on a \$7.9 million cash bond, which was continued last week by the district judges.

Circuit court clerks said they expect the cases involving Szeman to be grouped and handled together at the county level.

KALUZYNY SAID he is preparing a defense by obtaining psychiatric reports from Ohio — where Szeman pleaded guilty to a rape Jan. 4 — and obtaining necessary evaluations here.

He also expects to request a hearing to determine the admissibility of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) evidence. DNA is an organic substance used by investigators to analyze body tissues, which reportedly can give a genetic fingerprint.

"They will probably want to try (the cases) within 100 days," said Szeman. Szeman came to Farmington's 47th District Court Wednesday, April 12.

**"We understand that he will be eligible for parole in 10 years (in Ohio), and that's the reason we want to go ahead with our prosecution. He will serve his time in Ohio first and then, if convicted here, will serve his time here."**

— Richard Thompson  
 Oakland County prosecutor

Szeman's attorney approximately a week ago. "I don't know if I'll be ready. I'm not trying to speed things up or slow them down."

THE MEDIA have closely scrutinized the Oakland County cases throughout the investigation and arrest. They were present during last week's appearances when Szeman waived preliminary exams in three district courts.

Metal detectors were used to screen those entering the courtroom to ensure the defendant's safety. He was brought to court under police guard.

Szeman came to Farmington's 47th District Court Wednesday, April 12.

waiving his rights to examination in a three-minute appearance before District Judge Michael Hand. Hand said the defendant appeared "very calm, very collected."

The same procedure was followed Friday morning in district courts in Bloomfield Township and Independence Township.

AT BLOOMFIELD'S 48th District Court — where employees were organizing the opening of a new courthouse — District Judge Gus Cifelli detailed each of the six cases and asked Szeman if he understood his right to examination. The defendant uttered a "yes sir" to each question, as he waived the exam.

Szeman pleaded guilty in January for the rape last November of a 24-

year-old suburban Cleveland woman. He is expected to begin serving his 58-to-140-year sentence in the Chillicothe Correctional Institution, a maximum security prison near Columbus, when Michigan court proceedings end.

"We understand that he will be eligible for parole in 10 years (in Ohio), and that's the reason we want to go ahead with our prosecution," Oakland County prosecutor Richard Thompson said. "He will serve his time in Ohio first and then, if convicted here, will serve his time here."

Oakland County investigators linked Szeman, an Ohio trash hauling company salesman who once held jobs in Troy and Southfield, to several local attacks through fingerprints found on a Farmington Hills victim's

wallet, blood-semen samples and personal property found in his possession that belonged to some of the victims.

A wallet, purse and undergarments belonging to the last Farmington Hills victim were found April 2, 1988, in a dumpster in Westlake, Ohio, 3½ miles from Szeman's Rocky River townhouse.

He had moved to the Ohio town from a rented room in West Bloomfield where he lived for approximately two years. The last Oakland County victim was attacked March 31, 1988, in her Farmington Hills home.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

## Breakdown of charges

Steven A. Szeman Jr. is charged in nine Oakland County rape, robbery, burglary and assault cases involving 10 women. Two Farmington Hills sisters were attacked during one incident.

Charges relate to:

- Three rapes in Farmington Hills,
- Three rapes in Bloomfield Township,
- A rape and attempted rape in Birmingham,

- An armed robbery in West Bloomfield.
- A rape in Independence Township near Clarkston.

Charges include various counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, which involves penetration; second-degree criminal sexual conduct; armed robbery; breaking and entering; and assault with intent to rob.

Szeman faces possible sentence of life in prison if convicted of any of the first-degree criminal sexual conduct or armed robbery charges.

## Hills aide has twins

Karen Hirkholz, on leave as assistant to Farmington Hills city manager William Costick, gave birth to twin boys Wednesday in Bolsoford General Hospital, Farmington Hills.

"Everybody is fine. Karen is very happy," said Pam Wright, secretary to the city manager. Mark weighed in at 8 pounds, 1 ounce shortly before 7 a.m. Kevin followed in at 20 minutes later, weighing in at 8 pounds, 3 ounces. They were born within a week of their due date.

Karen and her husband, Al, also have another son, Paul, 2. They live in Millford.

Karen is on a year's leave from her job in the city manager's office.



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