

## Defense in Lewis Murder Case Wants Medications Tested

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A defense motion filed on behalf of James B. Campbell, accused of murdering Mark Lewis in 2006, seeks to have certain medications and drink containers found in Lewis' Springfield home tested for the possible presence of "date rape" drugs.

Campbell, 34, of Auburn, was charged in March 2007 with the September 2006 strangulation death of Lewis after DNA evidence from the murder scene was compared to a national database by Sangamon County sheriff's detectives.

Lewis, 36, a supervisor at Physicians Group Associates, was found dead inside his ransacked apartment just off West Lake Shore Drive on Hazel Dell Road. Co-workers had gone to check on him when he didn't show up for work Sept. 29.

He'd last been seen at a downtown bar about 11 the night before. His missing Toyota Celica was found abandoned near railroad tracks in the 3700 block of Camp Butler Road about 1 a.m. Sept. 30.

The defense motion, filed Feb. 22, asks that the contents of prescription bottles labeled propoxyphene, alprazolam, hydrocodone and fluconazole, all recovered from a pillow case on the living room floor, be tested, as well as the liquid contents of a Dr Pepper can taken from the living room, a drinking glass recovered from a bedroom nightstand and other items.

Defense attorneys want the Illinois State Police forensics lab to test the prescription and non-prescription medications recovered to see if they are what the labels say they are.

Campbell's attorneys — Mark Wykoff, Jon Gray Noll and Daniel Fultz — also are asking the judge in the case to bar from a trial any DNA evidence.

They say they asked in October that the DNA evidence used as the basis for the indictment be turned over for independent testing. However, they said they were told that the DNA sample was entirely consumed during the prosecution's testing procedure.

"It is well settled law in Illinois that when counsel moves for independent testing of material that is exculpatory, and that material is no longer available for independent testing, that said material cannot be introduced as evidence," the motion argues.

In addition, they're asking that any evidence of prior convictions, bad acts, pictures of Lewis' body or specific videotaped statements Campbell made be barred from trial.

A hearing on the motions is scheduled before Circuit Judge Leslie Graves for May 13. Assistant state's attorney Jay Magnuson is prosecuting the case.

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