

## LOCAL NEWS

# SAN BERNARDINO: Estranged husband to face trial in stabbing death

By **GAIL WESSON** | gwesson@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise  
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Co-workers last saw Ashley Atherley alive the day after Thanksgiving 2013 when someone picked her up from work at lunchtime in Los Angeles.

Relatives of her estranged husband, Edly Atherley, became concerned when she didn't pick up the couple's two children that evening, and they contacted San Bernardino police the next day, Nov. 30.

San Bernardino police detective Marco Granado testified at a preliminary hearing Thursday, March 19, that police found parts of a bloodied knife and a blood-stained sheet in the apartment where she and her husband had lived before their separation, and her body in the bathroom in a search Dec. 1, 2013. She had been stabbed multiple times.

After the hearing, San Bernardino County Superior Court Judge William Jefferson Powell IV ruled there was sufficient evidence to order Edly Atherley to stand trial on a first-degree murder charge. He faces an arraignment April 2.

San Bernardino police testified during the hearing, recounting witness interviews



A woman told investigators her male neighbor, whom police identified as Edly Atherley, “became startled” when he peeked out his apartment door as she walked her dogs and closed his door late Nov. 30, 2013, or early the next morning. Edly Atherley was a fugitive for two months, until he was arrested in Florida, where the couple had lived before moving to California in the spring of 2013. Relatives of the couple told investigators there had been incidents of domestic violence in the marriage and the victim had been offered a place to stay in Los Angeles as a refuge before she found her own apartment close to her banking job in that city.

Granado testified he found a kitchen knife set in the Los Angeles apartment with knives lined up by size – and one missing from the middle. The handle was “similar” to the bloodied knife handle found in the San Bernardino apartment, he said.

San Bernardino police Officer Lanier Rogers testified that Edly Atherley’s mother had called police asking for a welfare check at the couple’s Castle Park apartment Dec. 1, relating that there was a history of domestic violence. Rogers found the SUV that Edly Atherley had borrowed in the apartment parking lot, and another investigator saw what appeared to be blood inside.

A security guard told police that the night of Nov. 30, he encountered a man he identified as the defendant “bleeding profusely from his right hand and looking distraught,” and the man told the guard he was looking for his wallet, San Bernardino Detective Albert Tello testified.

Police Officer Myra Doner responded to the guard’s suspicious circumstances report late Nov. 30. She testified she encountered a man who had a cut on his hand with dried blood who identified himself as “Ed Lee,” who denied talking to a security guard and whose clothing description did not match the guard’s description.

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