

MOM TESTIFIES IN SLAYING - FATHER CHARGED IN TODDLER'S DEATH; EXAM RESUMES TODAY

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Charleen Belue and her 3-year-old daughter were running a little late on Sept. 28; she dropped Stefanie off at her day care just before 8 a.m. It was the last time Belue would see her child alive.

Belue testified **in** 36th District Court on Thursday that she received a call at work from a former coworker who told her there had been a shooting at a home day care near 7 Mile and Telegraph, the area where Belue had dropped off her daughter.

On her way to the home, Belue made several calls. One call was to Stefanie's father, Bernard Kelly, to tell him there had been a shooting and she was going to check on their daughter.

According to police and prosecutors, though, Kelly, 37, knew all too well what had happened **in** the house **in** the 19000 block of Woodbine.

He is accused of fatally beating Stefanie **in** the head and shooting two adults who were inside the day care center. Kelly is charged with first-degree murder, felony murder, two counts of assault with intent to murder and use of a firearm **in** the commission of a felony.

Around 10 a.m. Sept. 28, police said, Kelly knocked on the door of the home and inquired about day care services.

When the day care owner, Annette Rice, 41, allowed him to enter, he asked where the children were kept, according to police. Rice took him to the back to show him and Kelly opened fire, police said.

Rice and her niece, Sherita Griggs, 22, were shot multiple times and remain hospitalized. They are to testify today from their hospital beds before 36th District Judge Donald Coleman, who will then determine whether there is probable cause to bind Kelly over for trial **in** Wayne County Circuit Court. Coleman is expected to go to the hospital for the testimony.

During the first part of the preliminary exam Thursday, Belue said she had talked to Kelly the day before the shooting. He pulled up next to her at a red light and said he wanted to talk to her about their child support hearing scheduled for the next day. They decided to talk at Belue's home, since Rice was going to drop Stefanie off there.

Belue said they talked for about 20-25 minutes, and he begged her not to proceed with the case because he already was paying child support for two of his four children. Belue said Kelly was never really a part of her daughter's life, though she sent him an occasional picture of the toddler.

"When I told him I was pregnant, he didn't want to be bothered," Belue testified.

Belue said Kelly asked if the two of them could agree on child support without any intervention from the Friend of the Court.

Belue said she told Kelly she was willing to work with him on the amount and on when it would start being deducted from his pay.

Belue, who remained composed during her testimony, said she talked with Kelly periodically the next day - the day of the shooting - because she wanted to keep him informed.

She said she made a final call to him after she left Children's Hospital of Michigan. "I just told him that my baby was gone," she said.

Dr. Melissa Pasqule-Styles, who performed the autopsy for the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office, testified that Stefanie died from blunt force trauma to the head, and it appeared that she had been hit at least four times with a pipe or stick.

Kelly is being held without bond **in** the Wayne County Jail.

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Caption: Charleen Belue **testifies** on Thursday. Bernard Kelly, 37, of Detroit listens during his preliminary exam hearing **in** 36th District Court on Thursday.

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