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PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
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DEPUTY

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR PIERCE COUNTY

STATE OF WASHINGTON,

Plaintiff,

CAUSE NO. 05-1-01577-4

vs.

DANIEL RALPH MAPLES,

INFORMATION

Defendant.

703 41857

DOB: 2/25/1958  
PCN#:

SEX : MALE  
SID#: 10814831

RACE: WHITE  
DOL#: MAPLEDR427C5

COUNT I

I, GERALD A. HORNE, Prosecuting Attorney for Pierce County, in the name and by the authority of the State of Washington, do accuse DANIEL RALPH MAPLES of the crime of MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE, committed as follows:

That DANIEL RALPH MAPLES, in the State of Washington, on or about the 8th day of October, 1988, did unlawfully and feloniously, with premeditated intent to cause the death of another person, cause the death of Christine Blais, a human being, on or about the 8th day of October, 1988, contrary to RCW 9A.32.030(1)(a), and against the peace and dignity of the State of Washington.

DATED this 1st day of April, 2005.

TACOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT  
WA02703

GERALD A. HORNE  
Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney

gtc

By: *Gerald Costello*  
GERALD T. COSTELLO  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
WSB#: 15738

INFORMATION- 1

Office of the Prosecuting Attorney  
930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 946  
Tacoma, WA 98402-2171  
Main Office (253) 798-7400

1 NO. 05-1-01577-4  
 2 DECLARATION FOR DETERMINATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE

3 GERALD T. COSTELLO, declares under penalty of perjury:

4 That I am a deputy prosecuting attorney for Pierce County and I am familiar with the police  
 5 report and/or investigation conducted by the TACOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT, incident number  
 890070343;

6 That the police report and/or investigation provided me the following information;

7 That in Pierce County, Washington, on or about the 8th day of October, 1988, the defendant,  
 DANIEL RALPH MAPLES, did abduct and murder Christine Blais.

8 In October, 1988 Defendant was 30 years old, was married (since divorced), and lived at a home  
 in the 4800 block of South J St. in Tacoma. Christine Blais was single, 27 years old, and the parent of an  
 9 adolescent daughter. She lived in an apartment in the 4200 block of South 30<sup>th</sup> St. Defendant and victim  
 worked at the same place, "AKWA" on the Commencement Bay tide flats, a ship repair/refit facility. In  
 10 October, 1998 they both worked the night shift, frequently working together.

Christine Blais was scheduled to work the nights of October 7 and 8, 1988, and so was  
 Defendant. Ms. Blais had a brother, Sam Blais, who watched her daughter while she worked. The  
 11 daughter, Jessie, was delivered to her Uncle on the afternoon of October 7<sup>th</sup>, just before Ms. Blais went to  
 work at her 4:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. shift. Christine's plan, as usual, was to meet Jessie at their apartment  
 12 on Sunday morning, October 9<sup>th</sup>, around 10:00 a.m., after Jessie was dropped off at home by the church  
 bus driver. Jessie arrived home as planned but her mother was not home.

Christine's absence was very surprising. Witnesses, and her family, who all knew her well,  
 13 reported that Ms. Blais was an "overprotective" parent who doted upon her daughter. That she rarely  
 14 partied or went out. She would bring her daughter with her when she went out on occasional dates with  
 men. That she invariably met her daughter as planned, kept her informed of her activities, and was a very  
 15 "responsible" person. Essentially, that Christine's "world" revolved around her daughter.

Not finding her mother, Jessie called her Uncle, left a note for her mother, and returned to her  
 16 Uncle's home. Later that day, Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, Sam Blais reported Christine to the police as missing,  
 and he started investigating on his own because he knew that something was definitely wrong.

Sam Blais learned, and this was later confirmed by police investigators, that both Defendant and  
 17 Christine stayed at work longer than usual. At the end of the overtime shift, at approximately 4:00 a.m.,  
 Saturday, October 8, Defendant helped Christine load some empty wooden spools (used to hold wire) into  
 18 her car, as she planned to bring those to her daughter to be used to create a "kitchen play-set." Defendant  
 got into Christine's car, and she drove away from the work site in order to give him a ride home.

Sam Blais located and spoke with Defendant a couple of days after Christine disappeared and  
 19 Defendant confirmed that Christine agreed to give Defendant a ride to his home and that they had loaded  
 her car with the spools for Jessie around 4:00 a.m. Further, that he left the work site as a passenger in her  
 20 car. Defendant has told multiple investigators these facts.

There are no persons known to investigators who saw Christine Blais alive after this point in  
 21 time.

Defendant has also told multiple persons, law enforcement and others, that Christine stopped her  
 22 car in the Fife area, near an I-5 interchange, and that he got out and walked home, a distance of roughly  
 four miles. He has said that he last saw Ms. Blais driving toward the on-ramp for I-5, heading  
 23 Northbound, a direction that is opposite of her home.

Defendant has described to various people different places where she purportedly stopped her car  
 24 and let him out. He has likewise inconsistently described why the car was stopped and why he walked

DECLARATION FOR DETERMINATION  
 OF PROBABLE CAUSE -1

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1 home, when the plan was for her to drop him off at his home. Defendant has never said that there was  
2 hostility or any arguing between them before he was unexpectedly let out of the car. Nor did Defendant  
describe that Christine had announced any particular plan that she had in mind other than going home.

3 When Sam Blais talked with Defendant, several days after the victim disappeared, he saw  
bruising on Defendant's neck that had a yellow color to it, indicative of healing. The bruise was shaped  
4 in a way that was consistent with someone grabbing Defendant's neck.

5 Detectives also saw a healing bruise on Defendant's neck when they first spoke with him several  
days after Ms. Blais disappeared. Defendant said he accidentally walked into a protruding piece of steel  
6 on a ship. He said he did not report an on-the-job injury to his employer.

7 One of Defendant's co-workers saw that he had a significant laceration on one of his elbows and  
that this fresh injury was seen at the time Ms. Blais disappeared. Defendant claimed to have suffered the  
8 injury on the job.

9 A search of the Blais apartment did not reveal anything unusual.

10 Christine's car was found before she was found. The car was found by citizens who called the  
11 police on October 27, 1998. It was parked in a lot adjacent to a business that Defendant's wife used to  
12 work at - a place that was familiar to him. Police searched the car. The wooden spools were found inside  
of it. No evidence of violence, such as blood, was found. It was a modest walking distance from this  
13 business to Defendant's home.

14 On January 7, 1989 Christine's remains were found. The renter of a home located close to  
15 McMurray Road and its intersection with Marine View Drive in NE Tacoma called the police. The renter  
16 found a human skull and another bone at a spot near the residence on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The renter owned a dog  
17 that often roamed freely and it was surmised that the dog brought these bones to the spot. Police and  
volunteer searchers conducted a meticulous search on their hands and knees covering a wide area. This  
area is heavily wooded and in a ravine on a steep hillside. Most of Ms. Blais' remains were found at a  
18 secluded spot hundreds of feet from the home and a considerable distance from the roadway. A forensic  
19 odontologist evaluated the victim's dental records and confirmed Ms. Blais' identity.

20 The victim's bones were scattered, evidently due to animal activity.

21 The condition of Ms. Blais' remains were consistent with being outdoors for a three month time  
22 frame. Additionally, during the second week of October 1998, a municipal employee was working at a  
23 pump station that was fairly close to where portions of Ms. Blais' remains were later found and he recalls  
24 a foul odor consistent with decaying flesh. The Medical Examiner has certified her death as a homicide.

Associated with some of the victim's bones were two lengths of rope. One piece was about 28"  
long and had a knot at one end. The other piece was unknotted, but was wrapped loosely in and around  
itself. This piece was about 48" long. A small clump of head hairs was clinging to the longer piece of  
rope. These hairs were microscopically indistinguishable from large amounts of head hair also associated  
with the victim's remains.

No clothing was found that was believed to be associated with Christine's remains.

Approximately 15 feet from parts of her skeleton a wristwatch was found. The watchband was  
made of leather and held a timepiece. The band was distinctive in overall appearance. The band was  
torn, not unfastened, indicating that possibly considerable force tore the band off someone's wrist. Stuck  
and entwined on the band and watch were multiple human head hairs. These hairs were found to be  
microscopically consistent with a mass of head hair found near the bones and consistent with hairs found  
on one of the lengths of rope.

In October 1998 Defendant daily wore a watch that appeared to be identical to the watch found at  
the scene. Multiple photographs of Defendant, found in a photo album in his home (pursuant to a search  
warrant), showed Defendant wearing a watch that is indistinguishable in appearance from the watch  
found at the scene. Witnesses who are familiar with the watch Defendant wore have also confirmed that  
the crime scene watch looks just like the watch Defendant wore.

One of Defendant's co-workers, who did not own a watch, routinely asked Defendant for the time  
of day and he would tell her the time after looking at his wristwatch. This co-worker distinctly recalls  
that at the time Ms. Blais disappeared, she discovered that Defendant was no longer wearing his watch.

DECLARATION FOR DETERMINATION  
OF PROBABLE CAUSE -2

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1 She recalls asking him for the time of day, but saw that he no longer had a watch on his wrist when she  
heard him say that he "lost" his watch and to "not ask him anymore."

2 Defendant's former wife has also reported that she recalls Defendant's watch disappearing at the  
time Ms. Blais disappeared. She said that Defendant was very fond of the watchband and had asked her  
3 to purchase that specific band for him.

4 Defendant's former wife also reported that Defendant routinely carried a folding "Buck" style  
knife with him that she had purchased for him as a gift, and this too was suddenly missing at the time that  
Ms. Blais disappeared. Searchers did not find a knife in the area of Ms. Blais' remains. However,  
5 Defendant's former wife has reported that on the early morning of the day Defendant claims to have  
walked home from the Fife area — having been supposedly let out of Christine's car — she recalls  
6 Defendant undressing and leaving his clothing in their bedroom. She recalls seeing apparent blood on his  
trousers soon afterwards. She also recalls seeing fresh injury to one of his hands.

7 In 1986-87 Defendant and his wife rented the same home off McMurray Dr. where the dog  
evidently brought some of the victim's bones. Defendant, according to his former wife, was very familiar  
with the woods around the home, as he had spent hours roaming about in those woods.

8 In that time frame, a couple of years before Ms. Blais died, Defendant once said to a family friend  
that the woods in that area would "be a great place to hide a body" or words to that effect.

9 I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF  
10 WASHINGTON THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

11 DATED: April 1, 2005  
PLACE: TACOMA, WA

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GERALD T. COSTELLO, WSB# 15738

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