

# Summerfield's parents file motion in custody case

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Nathan Summerfield's parents have filed a motion in Juvenile Court to be included in child custody proceedings. However, contrary to media reports, they have not filed for custody of a 3-year-old boy that Summerfield and Lynn Jackenheimer had together.

"Summerfield's parents have filed a motion to intervene," Juvenile Court Judge Damian Vercillo said on Tuesday. "We don't know whether they are going to ask for custody or visitation."

Summerfield, 27, 310 Dorchester St., is wanted for Jackenheimer's murder. He allegedly strangled and stabbed the 33-year-old rural Ashland woman on July 4. Her body was found 10 days later in a vacant lot 25 miles south of where they were vacationing in the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

Summerfield returned to Ashland on July 8 and dropped off 3-year-old Leland and Jackenheimer's daughter, Ciara Sheppard, 13, and drove off in a 2009 Honda Civic. As of Tuesday, he remained at large.

Jackenheimer's parents, Raymond and Lora Johnson, have filed for custody of both children. A hearing is scheduled for Sept. 25 in Juvenile Court.

Last week, Summerfield's parents, John and Sandy Summerfield, filed a motion to intervene. A hearing is scheduled for Aug. 27.

Vercillo explained that it is common for grandparents in child custody situations to file motions to intervene.

"From a legal standpoint, even though they are grandparents, they have to be part of the case before the court can consider their rights," he said.

The girl's father, Matt Sheppard, has obtained legal counsel. Vercillo said Sheppard has indicated he is comfortable with Jackenheimer's parents having custody.

Deborah Woodward, the attorney representing John and Sandy Summerfield, declined to comment on the case.

The Jackenheimers' attorney, Lori McGinnis, could not be reached for comment.

Meanwhile, authorities in Ashland County and North Carolina had nothing new to report in the search for Nathan Summerfield.

"We're getting a trial ready," said Chief Deputy Steve Hoggard of the Dare County Sheriff's Office. "He's charged and we're anticipating that he'll be picked up."

Hoggard does not suspect that Summerfield has returned to the area.

"We have no indication that he's here," he said.

Investigators from local jurisdictions and the U.S. Marshals Office continue to follow up on leads, none

of which has been substantiated. Canadian authorities also have been notified.

Nationwide, tips can be referred to the U.S. Marshals Service, 1-866-4WANTED, or an anonymous tip can be sent by texting the keyword "WANTED" and sending the tip to TIP411. Tipsters may remain anonymous. Locally, information can be reported to the Sheriff's Office detective bureau at 419 289-3911.

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