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St. Mary's murder suspect eyed in another overdose death

John Wharton Apr 9, 2014

A Leonardtown woman charged with second-degree murder in a drug overdose death last winter remained in jail without bond after a court hearing on Friday, where a prosecutor alluded to the ongoing investigation of a similar case from last year. Lena Michelle King could be heard sobbing in St. Mary's jail throughout the proceeding, as a judge speaking to her via closed-circuit television also heard St. Mary's State's Attorney Richard Fritz (R) argue for her continued confinement. "She could be thrust into the category of a serial murderer," Fritz said. St. Mary's grand jurors indicted King, 20, last week on the murder charge from the death last January of John Cleveland Jr., who was brought to MedStar St. Mary's Hospital from an apartment on Lawrence Avenue, according to police reports. The indictment alleges that King administered morphine and heroin to Cleveland the previous day, and the prosecutor said last week at his office that Cleveland was dead from the injections into his hand when he arrived at the hospital. St. Mary's narcotics detectives report that on Oct. 5 of last year, law officers found a man dead in the back seat of a vehicle, alone in a parking lot in Charlotte Hall. The man earlier had injected some heroin purchased in Prince George's County, according to the detectives, and Fritz said in court that the dead man, whose name has not been disclosed, had been accompanied by one or more other people. "They called 911," the prosecutor said, "and left him there dead." At King's bond hearing, Public defender Gerald J. Riviello said that King has a 2-year-old child, and was working at a restaurant in Annapolis while in treatment at a halfway house. St. Mary's Circuit Judge Michael J. Stamm ordered that King remain in pretrial custody. "These allegations took place while you were already on probation from a drug charge," the judge [said.jwharton@somdnews.com](mailto:jwharton@somdnews.com)