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## Lawyer: Caffeine confession false

By Jim Hannah • [jhannah@nky.com](mailto:jhannah@nky.com) • September 19, 2010

**NEWPORT** The trial of a man who claimed he suffered a caffeine-induced bout of insanity when his wife was strangled went decaffeinated Monday.

Defense lawyer Shannon Sexton said Woody Will Smith made a false confession to the killing because he was suffering from a sleep-deprived bout of insanity. He never mentioned the word "caffeine" during his opening statements in Campbell Circuit Court.

Smith, 33, of Dayton, faces up to life in prison if found guilty of murder for using an extension cord to strangle Amanda Hornsby-Smith, 28, in May 2009 at the couple's home.

The trial is expected to last through the week in Judge Julie Reinhardt Ward's courtroom.

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Vanita Fleckinger told jurors that Smith strangled with wife with a blue extension cord in a fit of rage.

"She fought as she looked into the eyes of a man who held a blue extension cord ... against her neck so tightly it forced the last breath from her," Fleckinger said as she held the cord in her hands. "Amanda stared into the eyes of her killer – her husband, the father of her children, and as of May 4, 2009, her murderer."

Sexton said the Smith had learned his wife was having an affair but that he wasn't a killer. Said DNA found under her nails doesn't match Smith and that she died at someone else's hands.

He explained away Smith's multiple confessions as words of a sleep-deprived man who didn't know what he was doing.

Smith became fearful his wife would leave him and take their children after learning of the affair, Sexton said. He would go days with little to no sleep based on his fear he would lose his children.

Sexton said this sleep deprivation caused delusions and paranoia.

Smith believed his wife was secretly packing up personal documents, such as birth certificates, in preparation of fleeing to Mexico with the children.

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