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## DNA under victim's nails doesn't match defendant

By Jim Hannah • [jhannah@nky.com](mailto:jhannah@nky.com) • September 21, 2010

**NEWPORT** - A Kentucky State Police forensic biologist testified Tuesday that DNA found under Amanda Hornsby-Smith's fingernails didn't belong to the man on trial in Campbell Circuit Court for allegedly strangling her to death.

Her husband, 33-year-old Woody Will Smith of Dayton, faces up to life in prison if found guilty of murder for using an extension cord to strangle the 28-year-old in May 2009 at their home in the 900 block of Maple Avenue in Dayton.

While Smith confessed multiple times to killing his wife, his defense attorney, Shannon Sexton, contends those confessions were false because they were made when Smith was suffering from a sleep-deprived psychosis.

Sexton said in his opening statement on Monday that someone other than her husband killed Hornsby-Smith, but only hinted at that person's identity by saying the killer would be present during the trial.

Sabrina Christian, a forensic biologist for the Kentucky State Police Central Forensic Laboratory, testified that the DNA found under Hornsby-Smith's fingernails didn't come from her husband or the man she was having an affair with.

Under questioning by Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Vanita Fleckinger, Christian said it would be impossible for her to determine the origin of the DNA under the victim's fingernails. However, she testified that it could have been deposited there through a struggle with an assailant or through casual contact.

Christian testified that the state crime lab had recently limited the number of DNA tests they do to help eliminate a backlog of testing. They tested 11 items in the Hornsby-Smith investigation. One of the items not tested for DNA was the blue extension cord that was used to strangle her.

Misty Holbrook, a forensic biologist at the Kentucky State Police's Cold Spring Laboratory, examined the evidence for items that could be sent to the central lab for DNA testing.

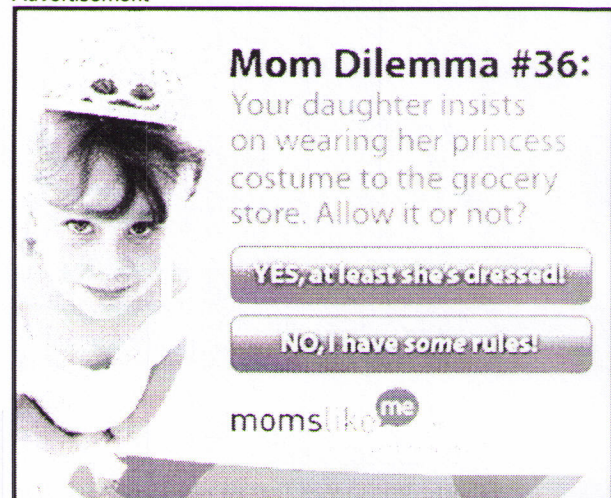
She said under cross examination by Smith's lawyer, Shannon Sexton, that had she had known that the DNA under the fingernails didn't match Smith that she would have conducted her analysis differently. She was prevented from saying what she would have done differently by an objection lodged by prosecutors.

Also testifying on the second day of the trial was Hornsby-Smith's boyfriend. David Bacon, now 21, testified he was 19 when he told Hornsby-Smith he would buy a house so she could move in and leave her husband.

He testified that he originally lied to investigators about the affair because he was embarrassed.

The trial is expected to last through Friday in

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Judge Julie Reinhardt Ward's courtroom. Prosecutors said they have about 8 more witnesses to call. The defense is expected to call at least one witness to talk about the effects of sleep deprivation.

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