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BREAKING NEWS

# Man charged with murder admitted to ex-wife that he strangled girlfriend in garage: prosecutors

By Ilana Arougheti  
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A Cook County judge Friday ordered a 63-year-old man detained after authorities said he admitted strangling his live-in girlfriend inside her South Side garage earlier this week.

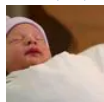
Lawrence Curtis Boyle faces a first-degree murder charge for strangling Sierra



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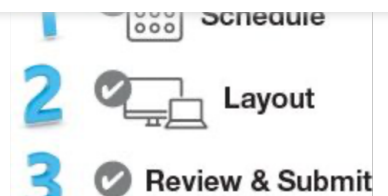
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McCord said during the hearing at the Leighton Criminal Court Building.

According to prosecutors, Jamison arrived at her house in the 7800 block of South Indiana Avenue in Greater Grand Crossing Monday evening to grab a set of



car keys to move a Jeep into the garage, McCord said.

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Inside the garage, Jamison encountered Boyle, who strangled her to death, took her cellphone and covered her body with a tarp, McCord said. "The defendant admitted he heard the victim take one breath and her leg jerked," McCord told the court.

Authorities didn't say in court what they believe triggered the attack.



Shortly after Jamison entered the garage, her mother sent her brother into the alley after texting Jamison with no response. Jamison's brother alleges he saw Boyle pulling down the garage door, McCord said.



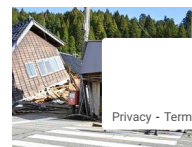
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“The defendant had the victim’s cellphone and claimed that she had thrown the phone at him and then went to the store,” McCord said.

Jamison’s sister and mother then went to the garage. Jamison’s sister saw her Jeep through the garage window, and Jamison’s mother entered the garage, where she discovered Jamison’s body lying under the tarp.

Jamison’s sister flagged down nearby police officers, who responded to the house around 6:30 p.m., the Tribune [previously reported](#).

[ [Autopsy: South Side woman died of strangulation; death ruled a homicide](#) ]

After leaving the home, Boyle called his ex-wife and admitted to her that he had strangled Jamison, according to McCord. “He was seen leaving the garage by a witness,” McCord said. “He made admission to strangling her, both to a person he is well acquainted with and to the police,” she said.

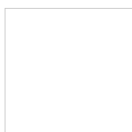
Medical examiner’s pathologists found marks on Jamison’s neck consistent with fingernails, hemorrhages near the top of her spine, as well as bruising on her tongue, McCord said.

Assistant public defender Joseph Crawford argued that the case could include self-defense arguments in the future, alluding to an alleged incident a few weeks before the murder where Jamison allegedly pointed a weapon at Boyle.

In statements to the police, Boyle “claimed he believed the victim had a gun when he first began to strangle her,” McCord said. After realizing Jamison was not armed, Boyle said he continued until she died, McCord said.

Judge Susana L. Ortiz called Boyle’s self-defense claims “self-serving” before ordering him to be detained.

“There is absolutely no evidence that this victim was armed,” Ortiz said. “What there was evidence of is ... he literally used his two hands to suffocate the life out of someone he was in a dating relationship with. He used his own force and he did this in a way that is dangerous and presents danger to the community.”



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Wearing black and gray sweat clothing, Boyle appeared at ease during the hearing, giving those watching the trial a slow once-over as statements began, rocking in his chair as prosecutors gave details.

Boyle previously served seven years in North Carolina state prisons for two felonies committed in Rowan County, North Carolina in 1993; one child abuse conviction, and one for breaking and entering, authorities said.

At the time of the murder, Boyle had been working for about seven years as a machine operator for a foam cup and container manufacturing company.

Boyle is scheduled to return to court next month.

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