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Lawyers Give Closing Arguments In Spader Murder Trial

Steven Spader Charged With 1st-Degree Murder In Mont Vernon Killing

POSTED: 7:25 am EST November 8, 2010
UPDATED: 6:28 pm EST November 8, 2010

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NASHUA, N.H. -- Closing arguments were delivered in the Steven Spader murder trial Monday, but the case has not yet gone to the jury.

Judge Gillian Abramson said she needed more time to complete the jury instructions and planned to deliver them Tuesday morning. After she does, the case will be in the hands of the jury.

Uncut Excerpt: Defense's Closing Argument

Spader, 18, is charged with first-degree murder in the October 2009 death of Kimberly Cates in a home invasion that prosecutors said left her daughter, Jaimie, seriously injured. The prosecution presented evidence that the pair had more than 50 cuts and slashes over their bodies.

The defense and prosecution both presented hour-long closing

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Uncut Excerpt: Prosecution's Closing Argument arguments to a jury of 16. Four of those jurors will be selected as alternates and will not deliberate, despite listening to nine days of sometimes gruesome testimony.

Spader's parents were seated behind the defense table Monday as his attorney, Jonathan Cohen, delivered his argument. Cohen sought to challenge the credibility of the state's witnesses, starting with Chad Landry, a convict who admitted he encouraged Spader to talk and write about the attack while in jail.

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"(Landry) told you Steve craved attention more than anybody else that Chad Landry saw in jail," Cohen said. "He wanted to be popular. This is easy pickings for Chad Landry."

The defense referred often to the state's burden of proof being a heavy one and painted the prosecution's key witnesses as liars, trying to plant seeds of doubt about fellow suspects Quinn Glover and Billy Marks.

"Quinn Glover had a motive to lie," Cohen said. "He wanted to avoid punishment, push the blame onto others. No questions about that."

Senior Assistant Attorney General Jeffery Strelzin said Spader admitted to the crime many times, both in his jailhouse writings and to his friends. Strelzin said the writings contained information only the killer would know.

"I found an iPod in the first room and used it as a light source," Strelzin read from the writings. "That iPod is Jaimie's missing iPod."

Spader's parents showed no emotion during closing arguments, but a young woman seated with them cried openly. They were swarmed by media outside the courthouse at noon.

"We love our son, and God loves our son, too," a relative said.

Strelzin has worked closely with the Cates family on the case, apologizing at times for the explicit details in the testimony. He said he won't lose sleep waiting for a verdict, saying he did his job and now has to let jurors do theirs.


A complicating factor for jury deliberations is that court is closed Thursday for Veterans Day and Friday for a scheduled furlough day.

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[172AV8R \[Profile\]](#) | Nov. 9, 2010 11:21am EST | [Inappropriate](#)
 Member
 From my friends in law enforcement I know there are several prisoners just waiting to get their hands on him for the heinous acts he has committed. If his lawyers are smart they'll motion to have him serve his sentence in Connecticut or another NE state.

If he isn't moved to another prison, I know he will get what's coming to him... whatever it may be and to be honest, I feel no discomfort knowing that because karma will always come back around.

[172AV8R \[Profile\]](#) | Nov. 9, 2010 11:15am EST | [Inappropriate](#)
 Member
 I'm personally sick of people being a bunch of pansies. I agree that some of the comments on here are harsh but lets keep in mind what he did. He killed a woman and hurt a child while sleeping. WHAT IF THIS WAS IN YOUR FAMILY?

And to those who say, "We don't know if he did it because there is no physical evidence." C'mon.... get a grip! The four men are proven to be there that night and a woman was killed. Someone killed her and there are several witnesses saying it was Spader.

[Countess \[Profile\]](#) | Nov. 9, 2010 9:48am EST | [Inappropriate](#)
 Member
 Wow, I can't even finish reading this blog all the way through. Some of you people are just as sick as Spader!! How dare some of you even speak for God and what God would do? Yes, Spader is a sick, twisted individual who committed a horrfic crime, but what do some of your disgusting posts say about our society?

[Countess \[Profile\]](#) | Nov. 9, 2010 9:42am EST | [Inappropriate](#)
Member
I agree Frogger! Wanting someone to be in pain and suffer is disgusting no matter if that person committed a heinous crime or not!

[Think4yourself \[Profile\]](#) | Nov. 9, 2010 8:08am EST | [Inappropriate](#)
Member
For anyone who is seriously concerned about a just verdict, now is the time to set aside our anger and pray fervently for the jury to have wisdom, and for justice to prevail. No punishment, not even the death penalty if it were available, would change what has happened. Let Spader rot in jail for 60 years. Thank God he won't ever be able to do this to another family. He'll never have a family of his own (although yes he has an infant daughter, sadly). At least he'll never damage her.

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