

State of Maryland * In The
Vs. * Circuit Court
Jay Wilds * of
No. 299250001 * Baltimore City

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Statement of Facts

On January 12, 1999, in the evening, the defendant Wilds received a telephone call from one Adnan Syed, a high school senior at Woodlawn High School, making plans to get together the next morning to go shopping. As arranged the two met the morning of January 13, 1999, and spent some time together. When it came time for Syed to return to school, he told Wilds that he wanted Wilds to take his car and gave Wilds his cell phone so he could call when he wanted it brought to him. Syed further stated that he intended to kill his former girlfriend, high school senior Hae Min Lee.

School ended for the day around 2:15 p.m. Shortly thereafter, Wilds, who had spent the afternoon visiting friends, received a call from Syed to meet him at the Best Buy parking lot in Woodlawn. Wilds did as directed and found Syed in the parking lot in possession of Min's car.

Syed stated he had done as planned and popped open the trunk of the car, revealing the body of Hae Min Lee, who Wilds recognized, having attended Woodlawn himself, having graduated the year before. Wilds then drove Syed's car, and followed Syed, who was driving Min's car, to a park and ride at the base of Route 70. There they left the car with Min's body still in the trunk.

Between 6 and 6:30 p.m. that evening, Syed received a call from the Baltimore County Police informing him that Hae Min Lee was missing and asking if he knew where she was. He stated he did not. This conversation was overheard by Wilds. Thereafter, Syed stated to Wilds that they had to conceal the body. The two went to Wild's house and obtained two shovels. Then they drove back to the park and ride where Syed got in Min's car once more and drove it to Leakin Park. Wilds followed in Syed's car. In the park, at a point where access could be gained by a pull off parking area, Syed carried Min's body back about 115 feet from the road, dug a hole, and put Min's body in it. These actions were observed by Wilds.

Afterwards, Syed drove Min's car back to Edmondson Avenue, and parked it in an apartment parking lot a couple blocks from Edmondson. Wilds followed in Syed's car. Then the two departed in Syed's car, leaving Min's car behind.

The medical examiner's office determined that the cause of death for Hae Min Lee was strangulation, and that the manner was homicide.