

Police tell of plot for death by AIDS

Intended victim tipped off, authorities say

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St. Louis News Service

ST. CHARLES COUNTY — Police say a man's plan to murder his former girlfriend by injecting her with the AIDS virus was foiled this week when his accomplice alerted her.

Charles Dean Crewse, 55, of Springfield, Mo., was charged Thursday with conspiring to murder his former girlfriend, 36-year-old Karen McBride, according to Vonda Taylor, chief clerk for the Green County prosecuting attorney.

Crewse is charged with offering to pay a 32-year-old Springfield man to murder McBride by injecting her with the lethal virus.

Sgt. Dan Wilson of the Springfield police said the accomplice was to be paid \$1,000, but he "got cold feet" and notified McBride.

Wilson said McBride dated Crewse when she lived in Springfield.

She attempted to end her relationship with him, and moved to St. Louis to live with her parents, police said.

Crewse followed her to St. Louis, police said, so McBride moved to St. Charles with her two daughters a month ago. After

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Crewse followed her to St. Charles, McBride contacted police.

Detective Joel Fann of the St. Charles County Sheriff's Department investigated the case and, with McBride's help, recorded her telephone conversations.

Police said Crewse followed

McBride home from work Wednesday.

Frightened, she went to her sister's home near St. Charles, where Crewse allegedly threatened to kill McBride and her sister.

Fann was summoned and arrested Crewse on a charge of disturbing the peace.

Police said they found nylon stockings, wigs and pictures of McBride's sister's family in Crewse's car.

Deputies contacted the Springfield police and expanded the investigation.

Crewse remained in the St. Charles County Jail on Friday in lieu of \$100,000 bond.

Wilson would not give details about how the virus was to be obtained or injected into McBride, but said police believe one of the two men had ties to a Springfield hospital.

He said the hired man was questioned by Springfield police, but may not be charged because he is cooperating with the prosecuting attorney.