



DenverDA

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NEWS RELEASE

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MURDER CHARGE FILED IN COLD CASE

Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey has formally charged a man accused in the 1979 murder of a young woman who was found in the sanctuary of a Denver church.

James Scott (07-19-61) is charged with *first-degree murder – after deliberation* (F1) and *first-degree felony murder* in connection with the beating death of 19-year-old Martha Guzman.

On October 25, 1979 Guzman was alone in a church at 3401 Bryant preparing for an evening service when she was attacked. The pastor and his family found her and called for help. She was taken to what is now Denver Health Medical Center and died several days later.

In 2006, the investigation into her death was reviewed as part of Denver's Cold Case Project by Denver police detectives. Scott had earlier been linked to a 1995 sexual assault case and has been in the Denver County Jail facing charges on that case. Detectives were able to obtain additional evidence to link Scott to the murder of Ms. Guzman.

Scott remains in custody in the Denver County Jail where he is being held without bond. He is scheduled to be advised of the murder charge on November 7, 2007 at 9 a.m. in Denver County Court, room 12T.

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The Cold Case DNA project is an ongoing collaborative effort involving Denver Police detectives, the Denver Police Department Crime Lab and the Denver District Attorney's Office with grant funding through the National Institute of Justice.

The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. *See Colo. RPC 3.6*