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## Coquille Mother's Quest for Justice in Daughter's Unsolved Murder Case Continues

### Nine-Years Later, Answers Still Sought in 15-Year-Old [Leah Freeman's](#) Murder

**Coquille, Ore., July 31, 2009** – As the ninth-anniversary of 15-year-old [Coquille, Ore.](#) resident [Leah Freeman's](#) murder rapidly approaches, her mother Cory Courtright's quest for justice continues. Freeman disappeared while walking home in Coquille the night of June 28, 2000. Her body was discovered in Fairview, a wooded town eight miles outside of Coquille, more than a month later on Aug. 3, 2000. After an autopsy was performed, it was determined that Freeman died from homicidal violence. Nine years later, the case is considered "cold" and remains unsolved.

But there is nothing "cold" about the case as far as Courtright is concerned, "I will seek justice in the murder of my daughter until my dying day. I want the person or people responsible for her death to pay for their crime and to be behind bars where they cannot endanger anyone else."

Courtright's knowledge of her daughter's murder is minimal. She knows where Freeman's body was found and the generic explanation of her death, but the actual cause of death has yet to be released because as police explained to her, it may hinder the investigation. "Not knowing the exact cause of my daughter's death is excruciating to me," Courtright continues, "I have no idea what Leah went through the last few hours she was living and I still have restless nights wondering what really happened."

Freeman's boyfriend, Nicholas McGuffin, and his friend, Brent Bartley, were two of the last people known to have contact with her before she disappeared. [Search warrants](#) were executed on property belonging to both McGuffin and Bartley's families and on McGuffin's person. Additionally, both McGuffin and Bartley submitted to polygraph examinations and failed. [McGuffin failed the polygraph](#) when asked key questions in regards to Freeman's disappearance and [Bartley partially failed the polygraph](#) when asked if he had knowledge of what happened to her. A grand jury was scheduled for August 2000, but called off following the discovery of Freeman's body. No suspects have been named in the case.

[Coos County District Attorney Paul Frasier recently explained to local media](#) that while the case is considered "cold," investigators remain active following any and all tips they receive. In regards to the search warrant affidavits for McGuffin and Bartley and other legal documents released in regards to the case, Frasier told local media that "the persons named have not been excluded as potential suspects." Those legal documents are available to download and view at <http://leahfreeman.com/documents.htm>.

Courtright is frustrated that the case appears to be at a standstill. "I really believe a cold case investigator needs to be brought on-board to take another look at this case from a fresh perspective. I think local authorities made many mistakes from day one of the investigation and there is a critical need for everyone involved to be re-interviewed and for the evidence to be re-examined."

Courtright is not alone in seeking justice for Leah. In 2008 the [Coquille Valley Crime Stoppers](#) was founded. The organization is a not-for-profit group of private citizens that was developed to assist law enforcement in solving existing and "cold" case crimes which are or have been committed in or around Coquille. Since its inception, the group's primary focus has been on the [Freeman case](#) and the [unsolved case of Jeremy Bright](#), a 14-year-old boy who disappeared in 1986 in Myrtle Point, Ore.

On Monday, August 3 Courtright will do what she has done for the past nine years. She will drive to Lee Valley Road outside of Fairview and sit on the desolate roadside where her daughter's murdered body was discovered. "Leah had so much potential, she had her entire life ahead of her and it was stolen. She deserves justice, her murderer needs to pay for their crime so she can rest in peace."

Anyone with information regarding Leah's murder is encouraged to contact the [Coquille Police Department](#) at (541) 396-2114, or [Coos Stop Crime](#) at (541) 267-6666. For more information please visit <http://www.leahfreeman.com> or <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Justice-for-Leah/143634984432#>.