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N.H. mom arraigned on charges relating to daughter's fatal overdose

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ROCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT VIA AP

Jazzmyn Rood.

By Matt Rocheleau

GLOBE STAFF NOVEMBER 13, 2015

ROCHESTER, N.H. — When Mark Ross woke up at 3:30 a.m. to find his girlfriend’s 17-year-old daughter slumped over in a motel bedroom, he knew immediately that she was dead from an opioid overdose, according to police.

But he would allegedly wait roughly an hour and a half before calling authorities.

In that time, he hid evidence of drug use, throwing spoons and hypodermic needles in a dumpster outside; deleted several text messages about buying the drugs in Methuen, Mass.; and called his dealer, threatening to kill him for having apparently sold a “bad” batch of narcotics, a police report filed in court said.

Even when the 41-year-old man had trouble waking up his girlfriend — who had injected herself with the same deadly drugs as her daughter used — he didn’t call 911. He waited until she woke up before calling, police said.

When police arrived that morning, Oct. 17, they found Ross straddling the girl’s body, performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation, while the girl’s mother, Jazzmyn Rood, 41, paced around the room.

Evangelique “Eve” Tarmey, a senior at Spaulding High School in Rochester, was determined to be dead by paramedics at about 5 a.m.

“A lot of people let that girl down,” said a man who lives in a house next to the motel complex and who said he knew the three people, but declined to give his name. “It’s such a sad situation. Drugs destroyed their lives.”

Ross and Rood, both from Rochester’s Gonic neighborhood, were arraigned Friday in Rochester Circuit Court on various charges related to Tarmey’s death.

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Another woman allegedly involved in the incident, Leslie Aberle, 31, of Salisbury, Mass., was arraigned Friday in district court in Newburyport, Mass., on a fugitive from justice charge.

She waived extradition and is expected to be arraigned soon in Rochester on felony charges of conspiracy to possess drugs, tampering with witnesses and informants, and dispensing drugs that resulted in death, a court official said.

Ross, Aberle, and Tarmey allegedly traveled from Rochester to Methuen. Tarmey was planning to meet a man she had met through Facebook for a date there and then stay with him. Ross and Aberle planned to pick up \$80 worth of heroin from Ross's dealer and bring the drugs back to Rochester, police said.

But Tarmey's date stood her up.

With two grams of opioids stashed in Aberle's bra, the trio traveled back to a room at the Riviera Motel in Rochester, police said.

There they were joined by Rood, and the three adults allegedly injected themselves with the drugs.

Seeing that Tarmey was "upset and hysterical" about being stood up in Methuen, Ross told Rood to go into the bathroom while he tried to calm the girl down, police said.

Aberle reached into her bra, broke off a piece of their opioid purchase, and, handing it Ross, told him "give this to her to calm down," police said. Ross placed it on the table and told Tarmey "to do what she normally does."

Tarmey crushed the drugs and snorted the powder with a straw, Ross later told detectives, the police report said.

Autopsy results finalized last week found that Tarmey was killed by accidental acute intoxication of fentanyl, an opioid that has a similar effect to heroin, but that is much more powerful.

Experts have said heroin and other drugs can sometimes be laced with fentanyl without users

knowing.

Ross and Rood told police they believed the substance was heroin, according to the report.

Rood was arraigned via video in a Rochester court on two felonies, conspiracy to possess a controlled drug and reckless conduct, as well as a misdemeanor charge of endangering the welfare of a child. No plea was entered on the two felony charges, while she pleaded not guilty to the misdemeanor. She was ordered held in lieu of \$10,000 bail.

Ross also was arraigned. He faces felony charges of dispensing drugs that resulted in death, conspiracy to possess drugs, tampering with witnesses and informants, and two counts of falsifying physical evidence. No plea was entered on his charges. He was ordered held in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

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