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# Barton arraigned in Mendocino County Superior Court



Mendocino County Jail booking photo of Talen Clark Barton. CONTRIBUTED

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An emotionless Talen Clark Barton stood before Mendocino County Superior Court Judge David Nelson Tuesday as the six charges filed by the District Attorney's Office were read, including eight special allegations, naming him as the suspect in the Sunday morning stabbing massacre that left two Laytonville residents dead, and two injured.

Nelson also officially confirmed the two other adults injured during the melee as Cindy Jean Norvell, 54, and Theodore Stevens Norvell, 52. The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office previously didn't release the siblings' names in Monday's update of the incident.

The 19-year-old Barton blankly sat in Courtroom H in a neon-green jumpsuit, staring at the floor before his arraignment took place, barely blinking.

County Public Defender Linda Thompson introduced herself to Barton, shaking hands. Nelson officially appointed Thompson to represent Barton in the matter as she relayed to Nelson during the arraignment that Barton was unable to afford legal representation.

Thompson requested the arraignment and entry of pleas to be continued in two weeks.

District Attorney David Eyster, who spoke on the prosecution's behalf, said he thought Thompson's request "seems appropriate."

Nelson agreed and set the continuation at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 4 in Superior Court.

"Bail will remain at 'no-bail' because of the special circumstances of homicide," Nelson said.

Barton is suspected of stabbing to death Teo Palmieri, 17, and Coleman Palmieri, 52, in their



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Laytonville home in the 46000 block of South Meadow Lane just after midnight Sunday. Coleman Palmieri was the husband of Cindy Norvell, and father to Teo Palmieri, who is also the son of Cindy

Theodore Norvell was said to have been visiting his sister Cindy Norvell from St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, with his 15-year-old daughter, who was uninjured during the incident.

Cindy Norvell and Coleman Palmieri also had a 14-year-old daughter, who survived the incident.

Both teen girls were sleeping in another room and were awakened when Cindy Norvell yelled during the attack.

The 15-year-old was able to keep Barton calm during her initial call to 911, 30 minutes after the attacks occurred, until he took the phone and engaged in a lengthy conversation with the dispatcher, the Sheriff's Office said in an update Monday.

Deputies responded 25 minutes after dispatch received the call, Sheriff Tom Allman said Sunday. Barton was talked out of the home and ordered to put down the knife that was used, where he surrendered and was arrested without incident, the MCSO said.

Besides the murder charges, Barton is also suspected of falsely imprisoning the two teen girls after the stabbings occurred. He directed one of the girls to tie-up Theodore Norvell and then herself with a cut phone wire, according to details by the MCSO.

Barton will remain housed at the Mendocino County Jail on the no-bail status reaffirmed by Nelson Tuesday.

MCSO Capt. Tim Pearce said he didn't have firsthand knowledge of Barton's mental health status upon booking into jail Sunday, and that any such information would likely be kept confidential at this time.

Pearce said Barton is being held in his own cell, away from other inmates.

"A high profile situation like this, we like to keep an eye on them," Pearce said.

Heather Nichols, spokeswoman for Mercy Hospital in Redding, said Tuesday that Cindy Norvell was in critical condition, but declined to give further details.

It was unclear at press time Tuesday the condition of Theodore Norvell. The MCSO said Monday that both surviving adults were transferred to out of the area medical facilities, one to Mercy Hospital and the other to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital.

Nichols confirmed Cindy Norvell was being treated in Redding and that Theodore Norvell wasn't. However, a spokeswoman for Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital said the facility had no record of Theodore Norvell being treated at any of its sister Sonoma County facilities, but she said it was possible he could have been stabilized and immediately transferred to the University of California-San Francisco Medical Center or Stanford Medical Center.

Neither facility immediately returned requests for comment, nor did MCSO Lt. Shannon Barney or Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman. Ukiah Valley Medical Center also said Theodore Norvell was not being treated there.

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