

NV v. Devyn Michaels Day 1

06 November 2025 17:26

Day 1 - 5th November 2025

Opening statements

Presented by John Giordani [36:43]

Defence presented materials to introduce their theory that John was decapitated in the head and chemically burned. They theorised that the police did not find the victims head, wallet, truck and last person to see him was Devyn Michaels that was known as Nikki at the time. He theorised that this was a post mortem decapitation of the victim.

He theorised Devyn was only a person of interest and that the police began investigating when they learnt about her's and John's relationship. They obtained a search warrant and searched her home where they found John's wallet and phone in her closet with blood on screen and also a lot of plastic bags. He theorises that she was interviewed as a person of interest.

They theorise that they are treating the man Devyn Michaels was with on surveillance as a suspect at 2:46am and emphasises it was only due to how murky the circumstances were.

He theorises that on the post-arrest interview, Devyn Michaels had admitted to bashing John on the head when he returned back to the house. Their main theory is that Devyn Michaels wanted John out of the picture and this is why she did what she did.

Defence statements presented by Robert Draskovich [1:24:00]

Defence presented theory stating that every unhappy family is unhappy in their own way. They theorised that the police investigation is missing. He presented their 3 party culprit theory asking the question why is Deviere covering for Deviere and why is Devyn covering for Deviere. Robert theorises that Deviere had made an untrue statement when he said that John and Devyn were in a sexless and non-intimate marriage and the detectives didn't learn that this relationship was frustrated when John was moving in. He said that its not a case of Devyn wanting to be Johnathon so she kills him to be with Deviere but Deviere was being kicked out of the house and was jealous his son had married his former girlfriend.

They presented pictures of Devyn and Johnathan being a couple with notably the timestamps taken in 2016 but accessed in 27/Dec/2022

He highlights that the same photo was modified in 15/May/2023 by Devyn and presented texts where he was angry with Deviere calling him a liar and a cheater and wants a divorce.

[1:43:00-1:43:30]

He presents pictures of surveillance cameras to support their 3 party culprit theory that Deviere has professional knowledge of security with his job in security and would be able to carry this out. Their main theory is that the son wanted Devyn and acted out in drunken rage to kill Johnathan his dad and Devyn was covering for Deviere. He pleads that the jury should look at the evidence, motives and find Devyn not guilty.

1. Witness #1 - State Witness #1 - Marquee Cooper - Police Patrol Officer

- a. Direct examination conducted by Female [2:02:59]
 - i. Marquee testifies that when he arrived at the scene, there was a strong chemical smell that he thought was unusual.
- b. Cross examination conducted by Robert Draskovich
 - i. Marquee Cooper testifies to not radioing in the strong chemical smell at the residence and says he arrived at 8:49am.
- c. No redirect exam was conducted.

Witness Function

- Establishes timeline of investigation and first hand accounts of the crime scene.

2. Witness #2 - State Witness #2 - Sergeant Seals - Sergeant

- a. Direct examination conducted by Female [0:00]
 - i. Sergeant Seals testifies to the scene being clean and there was no blood splatter.
 - 1) He says that he went into the bathroom that there was no blood in the bathroom where he thought that there would be signs of a struggle but there was no blood.
 - ii. Sergeant Seals testifies that he was told that the victim was smoking and there was smoke coming from under him, when he noticed it, he started ordering for pictures to be taken to preserve the scene.
 - 1) He says that he that there was a strong smell and you can taste it and concluded that it was a chemical that was used.
- b. Cross examination conducted by Robert Draskovich [19:09]
 - i. Sergeant Seals thought that he thought the killing was probably done on the bed as the shoulders were pulled on the edge of the bed but he cant opine whether the body was moved.
- c. No redirect exam
- d. Jury questions:
 - i. Speaking to the homeowner were the dogs hers or the victim?
 - 1) Sergeant Sears says no.
 - ii. Did she tell you if it was normal for them to be locked out based on your conversation with Yoko?
 - 1) Sergeant Sears says she said it was abnormal.

Established in this testimony

- Strong chemical smell upon entry into house and whilst canvassing the property.
- No blood splatter on the walls or anywhere was observed.

Witness Function

- Establish motive to destroy evidence or conceal the crime.

3. Witness #3 - State Witness #3 - Stephanie Wilson - Crime Scene Analyst [42:58]

- a. Direct examination conducted by John Giordani
 - i. Stephanie Wilson testifies to being a supervisor working in homicide and was responsible for tasking others to respond to the scene and dividing the work.
 - 1) She says that CSA Randy Neubel and CSA Megan Bone were with her.
 - ii. Stephanie testify that the victim was on his bed and was informed that there was a strong smell of chemicals and they had difficulty when they heard the victim.
 - 1) Crime scene mappings were shown where the victim was found without the head and the chemical bottles found [57:00-58:20]
 - iii. Stephanie Wilson testifies to all the rooms they had canvassed and found nothing of evidentiary value.
 - iv. Stephanie Wilson testifies to seeing their first trace of blood and some of the blood was on the carpeting. [1:11:55]
 - v. Stephanie Wilson testifies that the blood found at the foot of the bed was atypical to what they are used to.
 - 1) She explains that the smell in the house was very apparent and very strong when you get to the foot of the bed where the head area that was decapitated was located. [1:17:30-18:50]
 - 2) She explains that she believes that the body was likely decapitated there because there was no sign of struggle or even a sign of movement.

Court adjourned for the day!

[Timestamps from the Law & Crime Trials channel, see sources]