

Most charges against Kasner upheld

SAN BERNARDINO — Most charges were upheld Monday against a man accused of helping to conceal two young girls who were kidnapped when their mother was murdered.

Lee Kasner, 37, of Grass Valley, must stand trial on two counts of being an accessory to kidnapping and two counts of concealing minor children, Superior Court Judge Ben T. Kayashima ruled.

The judge dismissed a charge of being an accessory to murder, saying there was insufficient evidence to support the charge.

Kasner is one of several persons arrested during the San Bernardino Police Department investigation of the March 1977 stabbing death of Beverly Wise, 26, of San Bernardino, and the abduction of her daughters, Brandi Jondell Summers, now 8, and Tiffani Wise, now 5.

Wise's ex-husband, Roy Summers, 39, is charged with her murder.

The case was reopened last September when detectives were told the children had been sighted alive in northern California, Nevada and Idaho. Their investigation led them to several persons who they believed either harbored the children or lied to the detectives about seeing them.

Deputy District Attorney Gary Smeltzer, Kasner's attorney, asked Judge Kayashima to dismiss all charges on grounds a witness he attempted to call had been improperly made unavailable by the District Attorney's Office.

Kayashima conceded that Smeltzer may have been misled, but ruled that Smeltzer failed to make proper use of the witness when she was available.