

Summers hearing closed

By TINA MAY
Sun Staff Writer

FONTANA — More than 3½ years after the stabbing murder of a San Bernardino woman and the kidnapping of her two daughters, a preliminary hearing began here Tuesday for the woman's ex-husband, who is charged in those crimes.

The hearing in Valley Municipal Court for Roy Albert Summers, 39, was closed to the public, including the press.

Summers is one of five persons charged in the crimes, which became one of the most baffling cases in the San Bernardino Police Department's history.

Beverly Wise, 26, was found at her home stabbed to death March 30, 1977. Her two young girls, Brandi Jondell Summers, then 5 years old, and Tiffani Wise, then 2, were missing. A third child, 8-month-old Stacey, was left behind unharmed. Summers is Brandi's father.

Brandi suffered from cystic fibrosis and needed medication to properly digest her food. Without it, she would die.

The girls have never been found, but since police reopened the investigation in September 1979, people in Idaho, northern California and Nevada have told detectives they have seen the girls — sometimes with Summers — in

those areas over the past three years.

The latest sightings were last February near Grass Valley, a community about 50 miles northeast of Sacramento.

Although Summers was a prime suspect in the initial investigation, he was cleared a few days after the crime.

Summers, who denies any involvement in the murder-kidnapping, was charged about one year ago. At the time he was in Oregon facing charges in some unrelated crimes. He was extradited from there to San Bernardino County in

(Continued on B-5, column 5)