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Summers fights extradition

Only his signature is keeping Roy Summers away from a San Bernardino, Calif., murder trial.

Summers — serving a one-year sentence in the Deschutes County Jail for the Oct. 28 assault of his seventh wife, Connie Kohler of Redmond — has refused to sign papers that would waive extradition proceedings to California.

In January, he agreed to waive extradition, saying he was ready to face California murder charges for the 1977 slaying of one of his former wives and the kidnapping of her two children, one of whom he fathered. But now, following the advice of his lawyer, he refuses to sign papers which would allow him to be taken to California without a governor's warrant.

"We're trying to clear up some scheduling matters and then I'm sure he'll sign the papers," said David Weiner, a California lawyer who will represent Summers in the murder trial. "We just want to know what he's getting into before he goes down there."

But Joe Canty, a deputy with the San Bernardino County District Attorney's office, said he is tired of waiting for Summers to make up his mind. "I'm starting extradition proceedings now," he said. "If he decides to waive them, we'll stop the proceedings and bring him down immediately."

California investigators have been searching for the missing children for three years. They believe they're still alive.

Their last reported sighting was in January in California, after Summers, a horseshoer who moved to Redmond last summer, was jailed. A California man is facing charges of being an accessory to the kidnappings, as is an Idaho couple, who police believe harbored the children, now 5 and 8 years old, during 1977 and 1979. A sister of Summers, who lives in Virginia, also is charged with aiding in hiding the children.

Witnesses told police Summers was seen with the children in Idaho in early 1979 and that the children were seen with the Idaho

couple, who operate a day-care center, in 1977.

Items taken along with the children the day their mother was fatally stabbed were found by California and Deschutes County Sheriff's Department investigators last fall, according to court documents.

"These people (Summers, the Idaho couple and the California man) all seem to know each other," said Cady. "We feel we have pretty strong evidence to charge them with these crimes. We don't know where the children are, but we don't have any evidence that would indicate they have been killed."