Two charges against Iwakiri are dropped

SAN BERNARDINO — Accessory to kidnapping and murder charges have been dropped against Michael Gene Iwakiri in connection with the 1977 murder of a San Bernardino woman and the kidnapping of her two daughters.

A perjury charge is the only one that remains against Iwakiri, a resident of Boise, Idaho. Iwakiri, 31, has been out of custody on his own recognizance since April and has returned to Idaho. His trial is now set for Sept. 8, his attorney, Edward Foley, said Thursday.

Foley's motion to dismiss the charges was accepted last Friday by Superior Court Judge William P. Hyde.

The perjury charge stems from testimony Iwakiri gave earlier this year before the San Bernardino County Grand Jury. He said then that the missing girls, Brandi Jondell Summers, now 8, and Tiffani Wise, now 5, had never been at his Boise home since their disappearance March 30, 1977. That was the day their mother, Beverly Wise, was found stabbed to death.

That testimony contradicted what he had told Boise police earlier.

The children have never been found, but have reportedly been seen alive in Northern California, Nevada and Idaho.

Iwakiri is the second suspect against whom some charges have been dropped.

In June, a plea bargain disposition in Superior Court brought an end to the prosecution of Lee Casner, 37, of Grass Valley, Calif. Casner pleaded guilty to one count of concealing a minor. Two counts of accessory to kidnapping and

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