

Jury told Summers' fingerprints not found at slaying site

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CHINO — Murder defendant Roy Summers' fingerprints weren't found in the house where his ex-wife was slain and two of her young daughters were kidnapped five years ago, a jury was told here Tuesday.

Summers, 41, could be sentenced to prison for 25 years to life if he's convicted of murdering Beverly Wise and abducting her children, Brandi and Tiffani, at the victims' San Bernardino home. The crimes

were committed in March 1977, when the girls were 5 and 2 years old, respectively.

The children have never been found.

William Schimmel Jr., a former San Bernardino Police Department identification officer, testified he found only five finger and palm prints in the Wise's home.

The slain woman had left one of the prints on a metal cake can in the living room, the jury was told. Her husband, Claude Wise, left two prints — one on the refrigerator and one on the inside of the

kitchen door.

Investigators haven't been able to determine who made the remaining two prints — one on a bank deposit slip and the other on the refrigerator. However, those two prints definitely weren't made by Summers or either of the Wises, the jury was told.

Deputy District Attorney Michael Smith is trying to prove that Summers killed the woman out of hatred and kidnapped Brandi and Tiffani because they were witnesses to the slaying. Summers is Brandi's father.

Although they've never been found, the girls reportedly have been seen in several western states between 1977 and 1980.

The evidence against Summers falls into three general categories:

- A roadmap of California that was left at the murder scene. The jury was told Tuesday that none of the 19 fingerprints on the map were tracable to Summers, but the prosecutor said in his opening statement that witnesses will testify Summers had access to the map, or to one similar to it.

- The alleged sightings of the children with Summers and his friends.

- Incriminating statements that Summers allegedly made to two jail inmates and to police.

Defense attorney Timothy Guhin has told the jury that Summers is the victim of a faulty and unethical police investigation. Summers says he wasn't even in California when the crimes were committed.

Through his questioning of witnesses on Tuesday, the prosecutor tried to show that the lack of

incriminating fingerprints is not unusual.

Schimmel said that, in the 2,000 to 3,000 cases he handled while assigned to the police identification bureau, usable fingerprints were found at only one-third to one-half of the crime scenes.

And, he said, "I don't even recall obtaining a fingerprint from a murder weapon."

The trial, which is expected to last between three and six months,