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Murder suspect asks for 'worst penalty'

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A Glen Burnie man charged with killing his wife asked a District Court judge for the "worst penalty" during his bail review hearing yesterday afternoon.

Gary Paul Stephens, 41, of the 1000 block of Fairway Avenue, was charged with first-degree murder after investigators found his common-law wife dead in the bedroom of their home Monday morning.

Judge Martha Rasin ordered Stephens held without bond and ordered a psychological evaluation.

"For what I did, I don't deserve bail," Stephens told the judge. "I think you should give me the worst penalty you can give me."

When Rasin asked him if he wanted a psychological evaluation, he replied: "If that will lessen the penalty, I'd rather not talk about it. I'd rather just get the max, the top."

Because police said Stephens may be suicidal, Rasin ordered that Stephens be placed on suicide watch, which requires frequent checks by detention center officers.

Police discovered the body of Jody Lynn Rosenborough, 35, at about 7 a.m. Monday when a man identifying himself as Gary Stephens called paramedics and said his wife was suffering from chest pains. When paramedics arrived, they found Rosenborough in the couple's bedroom. She had been beaten and stabbed, police said.

According to charging documents, police found a note on top of the refrigerator they believe Stephens wrote. In the note, he admitted to killing Rosenborough, police said.

Police believe Rosenborough had been dead since Friday. Neighbors saw Stephens outside the home during the weekend, charging documents said, and that Stephens had told their three children that "Mommy was gone."

Rosenborough's two brothers and parents attended the hearing.

"We are thankful he understands what he did and how much he hurt everyone," said Terry Rosenborough, Jody Rosenborough's brother.

"He wouldn't let my daughter go," said her mother, Tammy Rosenborough. "She had been trying to leave him for years.

Tammy Rosenborough said the couple had been together for seven or eight years.