

Cordes arrested, being grilled about his wife's disappearance

DAWN BEACH--A joint team of local and Kingdom-based police arrested U.S. citizen Frank Cordes at his Dawn Beach home Tuesday morning as a suspect in his wife's disappearance on January 11. Authorities plan to question the middle-aged man about Leta Lynn Cordes and about the role they suspect he played in her disappearance, the Prosecutor's Office reported Tuesday.

Investigators have 48 hours to hold Cordes before requesting an extension and plan to use those two days for "serious discussions" with the suspect, Windward Islands Chief Prosecutor Taco Stein said. "We're going to ask Mr. Cordes a lot of questions," Stein told The Daily Herald about the next phase of the investigation.

Authorities are still treating the Cordes disappearance as a missing person investigation, as there is no reason to approach it otherwise. Casually dressed detectives dragged bags of clothes and other personal items out of Cordes' home before midday yesterday after holding him at his residence for nearly three hours before transferring him to Philipsburg police station.

Prosecutors faxed a statement to local media two weeks ago today, Wednesday, announcing that they would strengthen their investigation into the Cordes disappearance due to the sudden appearance of new evidence. Stein has refused repeatedly to elaborate on the evidence found.

Leta Cordes went missing suddenly from Dawn Beach after she left home. She has been said to have been inebriated in one version of the disappearance. Frank Cordes said she wanted to head to the casino at the nearby hotel.

Authorities will have to prove to a judge of instruction in two days that Cordes should be held longer.