

According to prosecutors Grady Nelson, 52, stabbed his wife more than 60 times before slashing her throat and plunging a butcher knife into her skull. Grady then stabbed her two children (13 and 11; both survived).

Grady's sexual misconduct with his mentally handicapped 11-year-old step-daughter is possibly what triggered the killing spree, according to prosecutors. Nelson allegedly had sex with his step-daughter on a number of occasions. He was eventually charged and briefly jailed. Charges however were eventually dropped because prosecutors said the girl gave inconsistent statements, according to CBS4 news partners The Miami Herald.

After being released from jail, Nelson allegedly went home the next morning, where police found him with a knife, covered in blood.

Nelson reportedly admitted to Miami-Dade police detectives in a videotaped confession that he had sexually assaulted his 11-year-old step-daughter and 13-year-old step-son that day before killing them. Afterwards however he changed his story.

According to defense attorney David S. Markus, Nelson came home and discovered the bodies and was coerced by police into giving a false confession. Markus says the real killer was Andrew Hall, 62, the boyfriend of the children's grandmother. Prosecutors say there is no evidence to prove that Hall had any role in the murders.

Nelson worked for the Miami-Dade Human Services Department in 2000 despite a rape conviction on his record. Back in 1991 he was charged with the rape of a 7-year-old neighbor.

The Prosecution argued that Nelson Grady Nelson had a traumatic early life which contributed to his later behavior. Nelson grew up in a small rural Georgia town in the 1950's and 1960's. The town was segregated, and few records or accounts of the African-American community were kept. Older eyewitnesses had died, and much of the oral history of Grady Nelson's family life died with them. Grady Nelson never knew his father. Grady Nelson's mother was an alcoholic prostitute who drank constantly, even while pregnant.

At age four, Grady remembered seeing his sister being raped by a gang of white carnival workers, while he hid behind a wall, too terrified to speak. The sister died as a result of the rape, and Grady was left with a lifetime of guilt and recrimination. A death certificate was found for Grady's sister, but no details of her death were chronicled in medical reports, obituaries, or newspapers. Grady revealed that he had been abused as a young boy by a pastor, but there no witnesses to the molestation, which was never reported.