

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 defence attorneys argued that Nelson had major brain defects that could explain his behaviour. To show this, they submitted as evidence brain activity measurements from a method known as a quantitative EEG (Q-EEG). In a standard EEG, electrodes placed on the scalp measure the electrical activity of the brain.

In Nelson's case, there was an obvious abnormality in the left frontal lobe. Nelson exhibited "sharp waves" originating from this region. These large spikes in the EEG trace are typically seen in people with epilepsy. Grady is not epileptic, but he does have a history of at least three traumatic brain injuries.

