**York Daily Record/York Sunday News/York Weekly Record (PA)**

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| **York Daily Record (PA)**  Section: MAIN Page: 01, 06  Estimated printed pages: 4  April 4, 2008  **Murder charges in shock death --**  **Toby Taylor's attorney said Kirsten Taylor's death**  **grew out of 'adult play.'**  Author: MIKE HOOVER  Daily Record/Sunday News  *Article Text:*  In November, when Charles T. Wertz noticed Kirsten Taylor had a black eye, he joked with her husband, Toby, to stop hitting her or she would leave.  Toby Taylor responded that if Kirsten ever decided to leave, he would make her death look like "wild, kinky sex" to "outsmart the cops," Wertz testified at a preliminary hearing Thursday.  When asked by Toby Taylor's attorney if Taylor was just joking, Wertz said he thought he was until he read in the newspaper that Kirsten Taylor was electrocuted during extreme, bizarre sex.  "I took it as a joke until three months later," Wertz said.  Kirsten Taylor, 29, was found unconscious inside the couple's Lower Windsor Township trailer Jan. 23. She was pronounced dead at York Hospital. The York County Coroner's office ruled the death a homicide, saying Toby Taylor deliberately used an electrical device capable of delivering a lethal blow to shock his wife.  Wertz's girlfriend, Angela Sutcliffe, said she heard Toby Taylor make the off-handed comment when they were inside the pizza parlor where the Taylors worked.  After a nearly two-hour hearing, York County District Justice Doug Meisenhelter found sufficient evidence for Taylor, 37, of the 100 block of Oak Leaf Drive, to stand trial on first- and third-degree murder, involuntary manslaughter and reckless endangerment charges.  Taylor had been free on $100,000 bail, but he was remanded to York County  Prison without bail after Thursday's hearing. He has a May 9 arraignment date in county court.  Toby Taylor and his attorney, Harry Ness, maintain Kirsten's death was an accident.  "What could possibly be worse than losing my wife?" Toby Taylor said after his preliminary hearing.  The couple had a history of extreme sex, including bondage, beatings and the use of electricity, according to testimony presented by police and a forensic pathology report. \*\*\*\*\* [Important note from Kirsten’s family: This sentence summarizes the husband’s mis-information that naturally caught the public’s interest, defamed Kirsten, and is typical of domestic violence abusers. The “testimony presented” refers to the testimony of the police officers about what the husband told them—the same story that the husband told others he would use against Kirsten if she ever tried to leave him! It would not be until more than a year later that the public would learn from the judge (see page 18 of the sentencing transcript dated May 22, 2009) that there was NO evidence that Kirsten engaged in this behavior. What the husband said goes to the heart of what abuse and domestic violence are all about—blaming and belittling the victim.] \*\*\*\*\*  Taylor first told police his wife just finished showering and was accidentally shocked by a hair dryer, Lower Windsor Township Sgt. Timothy Caldwell said.  Police began to doubt his statement after they found Kirsten fully clothed and were unable to locate the hair dryer, he said.  Later, at the hospital, Toby Taylor admitted he made up the story, Caldwell said.  In his subsequent statement to Scott James, a detective with the York County District Attorney's Office, Toby Taylor said Kirsten hooked herself up to a makeshift electric device, which included a power tray, an electric cord and metal alligator clips. She shocked herself about two times before Toby Taylor put electrical tape over her mouth and shocked her four or five more times, he said.  The last shot of electricity lasted about 15 seconds before Kirsten collapsed face-first onto the floor, James said, quoting Taylor's statement.  The electrical outlet and device delivered about 120 volts of electricity, said Kevin Ray Klinedinst, an electrical engineer who inspected the Taylors' home in the Restless Oaks Village mobile home park.  Ness objected to York County District Attorney Stan Rebert's request to increase the charges to include first- and third-degree murder. He said Kirsten's death was a tragic accident that grew out of "adult play."  Rebert argued that Toby Taylor admitted to administering the fatal jolt and that it was up to a jury to determine his intent.  After the hearing, Ness cautioned the public not to get caught up in the couple's sensational exploits but to remember that a woman is dead and her family is grieving.  "People should step back and remember a young woman died," he said.  *mhoover@ydr.com; 771-2088*  *PIC: DAILY RECORD / SUNDAY NEWS - JASON PLOTKIN Constable John Myers unlocks the door to his car as he prepares to place Toby Taylor, right, inside after Taylor's preliminary hearing Thursday in Lower Windsor Township. The York County District Attorney's Office amended the charges against Taylor to include first-degree and third-degree murder in the electrocution of his wife, Kirsten Taylor.*  (c) 2008 York Daily Record. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Media NewsGroup, Inc. by NewsBank, Inc. Record Number: MERLIN\_3005321 |