

# Missing woman identified as victim in decades-old cold case under investigation by Independence Police



Kimberly Carter went missing in July of 1984 in Kansas City, Missouri. On Thursday, IPD said remains recovered in 1988 have been identified as a match.(KCPD)

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INDEPENDENCE, Mo. (KCTV) - A missing woman who disappeared in Kansas City, Missouri, more than 40 years ago has been identified thanks to advancements in DNA analysis.

The Independence Police Department said Kimberly Lawanda Carter was 19 years old when she went missing in the early evening of July 5, 1984. Carter left her children with a friend and went to work, the last time she was seen by any friends or family, the Kansas City Missouri Police Department said.

In August 1988, a construction crew uncovered a human skull in a remote area of eastern Independence. IPD said an investigation led to the recovery of approximately 40 percent of a human skeleton.

This May, IPD said preliminary results indicated a potential familial match. In July, that identification was confirmed as Carter.

“Foul play was suspected at the time of her disappearance and is suspected in her death,” the Independence Police Department said Thursday. “As such, a criminal investigation is ongoing.”

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The Missouri State Highway Patrol said the investigative effort into identifying Carter’s remains was made possible by legislation sponsored by Rep. Tricia Byrnes of Wentzville.

“In 2024, Byrnes led an effort that secured \$1.5 million in state funding to support the MSHP’s efforts to identify unidentified human remains through forensic genetic genealogy,” MSHP said.

Since that funding passed, 54 cases have been submitted for testing and an additional \$1.337 million was allocated to expand testing capabilities this year.

IPD said it remains committed to seeking justice for Carter and her family. Anyone with information related to the case is encouraged to call IPD or the TIPS Hotline.

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