

Illinois woman's remains identified nearly 12 years after her dismembered body was found

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Deanna Howland photo from KTVI

EDWARDSVILLE, Ill. (AP) — Police in Illinois and Missouri have identified the woman whose dismembered body was found at an Interstate 70 rest stop more than a decade ago.

The Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, identified the victim as Deanna D. Howland of Alton, Illinois.

A highway maintenance worker found Howland's torso on June 28, 2004, in Warren County, Missouri, about 45 miles west of St. Louis. She would have been 35 at the time of her disappearance.

Lieutenant Matt Schmutz of the Warren County, Missouri Sheriff's Department was asked to take the case in 2014; he began working with Madison County, Illinois investigators on Howland's missing person case, which matched his case, in 2015 [according to KTVI](#).

Investigators say Howland was known as a prostitute and used illegal drugs; she was last seen in May 2004 and was estranged from her family and friends, KTVI reported. Howland also used Deanna Froehlich or Deanna Kinnear as possible alias names.

DNA samples provided by members of Howland's family helped identify her remains.

Authorities are asking anyone with information about Howland's death to contact the Warren County Sheriff's Department at 636-456-4332, the Madison County Illinois Sheriff's Department at 618-692-0871, or the St. Louis Regional Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-866-371-8477. (Doe Network Case 813UFMO)