QUESTION 2

CAR-THEFT SUSPECT CHARGED IN DEATHS OF 2 ABANDONED INFANTS IN TENNESSEE
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. - two infants left in a car by their mothers died after being abandoned along a highway by a man who told police he stole the car to buy drugs and was bothered by the babies' crying, authorities said yesterday.

David Stanley Eskridge, 26, was held . . . said Deputy Police Chief Don O. Lewis.

Lewis said Eskridge stole the car from an alley of a Memphis street of abandoned and ram-shackle houses as the infants' mothers, 16-year-old Tracy Coach and 18-year-old Sharon McNeil, visited an apartment there Tuesday night.

The car's motor was running, and Eskridge told police he needed the auto to reach an area of the city where he could buy drugs, Lewis said. .

Police Lt. James Bolden said Eskridge drove around with the children for about two hours before abandoning them.

"He said he went on a spree of buying drugs ... and the children had begun crying and he merely put them out of the car."

Lewis said 10-month-old Japhfus Coach and 2-month-old Sheena McNeil apparently died of exposure after being left for more than 24 hours in a ditch near Interstate 240, on the outskirts of downtown.

Their bodies were found just before midnight Wednesday after Eskridge told police where he had left them, Lewis said.

Lewis said police found the car with Eskridge inside about seven hours after the babies were reported missing, but he did not tell investigators where the babies were left until later that day.

"I think if we had had the cooperation (from Eskridge) on the front end, the children would still be alive," he said.

Two men with Eskridge when he was arrested were not charged, Lewis said.

- Discuss Eskridge's criminal liability.

- Would it make a difference if Tennessee had a kidnapping statute that applied? Why or why not?