

## Charges to be laid in death of nurse, beating of cabbie

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EDMONTON (CP) — Formal charges were to be laid today in the death of a hospital worker who police believe was killed a short time after a cabbie was savagely beaten late last week.

Ken Butler, 24, the brother-in-law of the slain woman, faces charges of murder, aggravated assault, break and enter and breach of recognizance in relation to both incidents.

The 61-year-old cab driver remained in hospital Monday in critical but stable condition in a medically induced coma.

He was found with head wounds on Friday night.

That same night, Ken Butler was arrested when he simply walked up to a police cruiser at the scene and got into the back seat, taking the officers inside by surprise.

The body of Stephanie Rae Butler, 25, wasn't found until Saturday night when her husband grew worried about not being able to reach her and called her father to go to their home and check on her.

The husband, Michael Butler, said that two days before her death, his brother had been arrested and released on \$300 bail with an order to stay away from the couple's home, something the police confirmed on Monday.

He said he is launching a petition calling for changes to the justice system, alleging years of harassment from his brother.

"We couldn't control my brother," he said.

"We tried to help him out but there was no way for us to deal with it. There was no help other than us helping ourselves."

Michael Butler also wants to start a trust fund to build a help centre in his wife's name for people with drug and alcohol problems.

"With negative karma going around, the only way to stop it is to have good karma coming out," he said. "(Stephanie) was a beautiful person — she taught me that."

Meanwhile, colleagues who worked with Stephanie Butler at the Grey Nuns Hospital remembered her Monday for her radiant personality and impenetrable grace.

She had worked in the hospital's Human Resources office for two

years and recently celebrated her promotion from secretary to human resources assistant, said her boss, Dean Jenzen.

"She was definitely a lovely, vibrant young woman," he said. "She was always very happy and had a wonderful sense of humour and always had a positive attitude regardless of how long the day was or how badly it was going."

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