

# Prosecutor: Teen forced dad to sign \$100,000 check before killing him



Mathew Nellesen, Azari Braden, Marlon Green, and Armon Braden (from left). (Police photos / April 15, 2011)

By George Houde Special to the Tribune

3:55 p.m. EDT, April 18, 2011

Angry that his father wouldn't give him money he believed he was due, Mathew Nellesen and his friends bound him with duct tape until he handed over his bank account information, prosecutors said today.

The 19-year-old freed his father's left hand so he could sign a \$100,000 check, then he beat George Nellesen in the head with a baseball bat and stabbed him with a kitchen knife, prosecutors said as the son was denied bail on murder charges.

Just a week before, the 55-year-old Nellesen had told someone he feared his son would kill him one day, according to Assistant State's Attorney Maria McCarthy.

On Thursday morning, a friend found him dead in his home in the 1000 block of North Wilshire Lane in suburban Arlington Heights, officials said. He was still gagged and bound to the chair, with a bag over his head, authorities said.

Judge Kay Hanlon ordered Mathew Nellesen held without bail today on murder and robbery charges. Hanlon set bail for Marlon Green at \$3 million but ordered him held without bail on a violation of probation stemming from a 2009 robbery conviction.

Bail was set at \$2 million for Armon Braden, 20, of the 700 block of East 83rd Street, and \$1.5 million for his brother, Azari Braden, 19, of the 2000 block of South Michigan Avenue.

McCarthy said Mathew Nellessen, Armon Braden and Green waited inside George Nellessen's house for him to return home after work on Tuesday. Azari Braden waited outside in a car.

The three forced George Nellessen into a chair and secured him with duct tape. After the father provided the men with the bank information, Mathew Nellessen wrote a check to himself off his father's account for \$100,000, prosecutors said. After forcing his father to sign the check, the son took \$800 from his father's wallet, McCarthy said.

Mathew Nellessen then repeatedly struck his father in the head with the bat and stabbed him, the prosecutor said.

After the slaying, the Braden brothers returned home while Mathew Nellessen and Green drove to a motel on the South Side of Chicago, using the elder Nellessen's car.

Mathew Nellessen repeatedly attempted ATM withdrawals on Tuesday and Wednesday using his father's card, McCarthy said. He also tried to cash the check at a local currency store but was unable to do so when the clerk became suspicious, she said.

The currency store clerk made a photocopy of the check and of an identification card that Mathew Nellessen provided.

Mathew Nellessen returned to his father's house in Arlington Heights on Wednesday evening. When the elder Nellessen failed to come to work Thursday, his employer called a friend whom he had listed as an emergency contact, McCarthy said.

The friend went to the Arlington Heights home. When the friend asked how George Nellessen was feeling, Mathew Nellessen reportedly replied: "You will know right away," McCarthy recounted.

Finding the body, she immediately called 911, McCarthy said. Mathew Nellessen was taken into custody after he abruptly left the home Thursday and led police on a chase, authorities said.