

# Soering's Lawyers Ask Judge To Bar Sock-Print Evidence

BEDFORD (AP) — Attorneys for Jens Soering have asked a judge to throw out a laboratory's finding that linked Soering to a bloody sock print found in the house of the couple he's accused of killing.

Any testimony or evidence related to the sock-print comparisons conducted by Robert Hallett of the state's laboratory should be barred from Soering's trial, attorneys Rick Keaton and William Cleaveland said in the motion filed Friday in Circuit Court.

"The opinion of Mr. Hallett is based upon an inherently unreliable method of comparison, i.e., anthropological measurements," the defense motion said. The motion also alleges that the type of comparison used is "not generally accepted in the field of law enforcement."

Hallett, who has been subpoenaed to testify at Soering's June 1 trial, compared a right sock print found in blood on the wooden floor of Nancy and Derek Haysom's liv-

The test appears to be the most damaging piece of physical evidence so far against Soering, the 23-year-old former University of Virginia student charged with killing his girlfriend's parents. Stains of Type O blood — Soering's blood type — were found inside the couple's Boonsboro home.

ing room to samples taken of Soering's footprints. Hallett measured distances between different parts

of the footprints and concluded it was "highly probable" the bloody print belonged to Soering.

The test appears to be the most damaging piece of physical evidence so far against Soering, the 23-year-old former University of Virginia student charged with killing the Haysoms, his girlfriend's parents. Stains of Type O blood — which is Soering's blood type — were found inside the Haysoms' Boonsboro home, but no fingerprints or hair strands have been linked to Soering.

It is not clear when Judge William Sweeney will rule on the latest defense motion. Sweeney still has to rule on a previous defense motion that Soering's incriminating statements to London police be thrown out of the trial.

The defense lawyers and Commonwealth's Attorney James Updike have until Monday to file legal briefs on that issue. Sweeney has said he would make a ruling sometime after that.

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