

Irvine Task Force to Probe Death of Woman

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Irvine police have assigned an eight-man task force to investigate the murder of an Irvine woman who was found dead at her home early Friday.

The victim, Manuela Elenore Witthuhn, 28, of 35 Columbus, was found dead by her mother. The autopsy showed she had been struck in the head by a blunt instrument, probably about midnight Thursday.

The woman's husband, David Witthuhn, who was out of town, became concerned when his wife did not answer the phone and asked her parents to check on her.

Irvine police said Mrs. Witthuhn's death does not appear to be related to other crimes in the area in recent months. However, the police patrol in the area has been stepped up. An Irvine police spokesman said the department has received a number of calls urging increased home security.