

HAMILTON - Hours after being charged with the attempted **murder** of his estranged wife, a 43-year-old man used a belt to hang himself inside a Niagara Region police station.

Donald Yacura was found unconscious in a holding cell Wednesday evening and was later pronounced dead on arrival at St. Catharines General Hospital.

A father of three, he recently moved to Hamilton to live with a relative after separating from his wife of 20 years.

"This is a tragic family matter," Wendy Yacura, the man's sister-in-law, said yesterday in a telephone interview. "We've had a terrible night."

Yacura was arrested by police earlier Wednesday as he fled from a violent domestic dispute at his former home in **Beamsville**.

His 43-year-old estranged wife, Jeanette, told police she was bound, gagged and punched in the head. The woman, who managed to dial 911 but was unable to speak because duct tape was wrapped around her mouth and nose, was found unconscious in an upstairs bedroom when police arrived. She had two badly bruised eyes, a swollen lip and other facial injuries.

Police were dispatched to the address, which automatically appeared on a computer terminal when the call was placed, after the 911 operator heard a man screaming and a child crying in the background.

After a violent struggle with officers arriving at the scene, Yacura was taken into custody.

He was then transferred to Niagara Region police headquarters in St. Catharines, where he was waiting to be transferred to the Niagara Detention Centre.

A rental car used by the man was found parked behind a drug store six blocks from his estranged wife's home.

"I would like to enlighten women to the fact this has not ever happened to me before," said the battered wife, who has three children from the marriage, aged 8, 11 and 16. "It was the first time."

Niagara Region police were refusing yesterday to identify the prisoner found dead or say what caused his death.

An autopsy was performed yesterday morning.

James Harding, head of investigative services for the SIU, said an investigator went to Niagara Region yesterday to probe the death.

The 911 tape recording was seized as part of the investigation.

#### CITATION (AGLC STYLE)

Rob Andrus Special to The Star, 'Wife assaulted, man hangs himself', *Toronto Star, The* (online), 29 Mar 1996 A12 <<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AWNB&docref=news/10BBF31C8A5EC900>>