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Judge rules in Casey Anthony case, significant for prosecution

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Atlanta, GA – Judge Belvin Perry ruled Friday on several key motions in the case against Casey Anthony, the Florida mom accused of killing her daughter.

Anthony's defense team had filed a motion to keep the jury from hearing Anthony's statements to law enforcement made on July 15 and 16, 2008 – during the first days when Anthony's daughter,

Caylee was reported missing. In a hearing earlier this month, the defense argued Anthony had not been advised of her Miranda rights yet was in custody and under interrogation.

Judge Perry, however disagreed. In his ruling, he found that Anthony was not in custody at the time and will allow the prosecution to use her statements. This is a significant ruling for the State, since four of the seven counts against her are based on these statements.

Judge Perry will also allow the State to use jail recordings of Anthony and her family made between July 16 and August 22 of 2008. The defense had argued that these recordings were made at the request of law enforcement but failed to convince the judge.

Judge Perry will also allow statements made to Orange County inmates Maya Derkovic and Robyn Adams and former Orange County corrections officer, Sylvia Hernandez.

In another significant ruling for the prosecution, Judge Perry will allow testimony from botanist Dr. David Hall, who had examined plant material at the scene where Caylee's remains were found. An issue at the trial will be how long Caylee's remains were at the location where they were found.

Judge Perry also decided to take up the admissibility of chloroform evidence at next week's Frye hearings. These hearings are dealing with whether other scientific evidence (the alleged odor of decomposition in the air) will be allowed.

The defense is asking the court to exclude any and all evidence of chloroform. According to the State, chloroform was found in Casey's car. There were also chloroform key word searches found on the Anthonys' home computer.

In Session's Mayra Cuevas-Nazario, Jean Casarez and Beth Karas contributed to this report