

Body found near lake identified as Crowley runaway, 13
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FORT WORTH - A decomposing body found Friday near Marine Creek Lake has been identified as that of a 13-year-old runaway from Crowley.

Relatives last saw Krystal N. Minjarez on July 18, Fort Worth police Sgt. Skeeter Anderson said.

A man fishing Friday evening discovered Minjarez's body in a brushy area about 20 to 30 feet from the lake's edge. Investigators said the girl was strangled with an unidentified type of ligature still on her body.

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office positively identified the body yesterday morning using dental records, Anderson said.

Anderson said Minjarez's aunt, with whom the girl lived, reported her missing to Crowley Police after awakening July 18 and not finding her.

"Evidently they last saw her about midnight," Anderson said. "When they got up the next morning, they found some pillows stuffed under the blanket where she was.

"She had left the house sometime after midnight that night and went over to a friend's house. We haven't got to talk to the friend yet."

Anderson said Minjarez apparently left home because she was upset with complaints that she spent too much time on the telephone.

Anyone with information about the girl's death is asked to call the homicide unit at (817) 877-8225.

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