

# ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

**Theodore F. L. Housel**  
Prosecutor

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## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release  
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1 Page(s)

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**MAYS LANDING** – Recent investigation into the 1986 disappearance of Bonita Sanders has caused the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office to conclude that the toddler was not abducted but died and her body hidden, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced Friday.

"The investigation is ongoing and the circumstances are still being investigated," Prosecutor Housel emphasized. "I have no statement with respect to the cause and manner of death of the child."

Bonita Sanders was just three days shy of her second birthday at the time she was reported missing Sept. 14, 1986.

In February 2009 authorities received credible information that the child's remains might have been in a wooded area off Route 9 on Brighton Avenue in Pleasantville across from the Recreation Center. Multiple law enforcement agencies searched tirelessly with the assistance of cadaver dogs but did not locate the body. Prosecutor Housel held a press conference on Feb. 27, 2009 at the scene of the search site where he told members of the media that the body was not found and he called off the search. He also stated at the time that the little girl's remains could have been there at one time and removed or they were never there at all.

**Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor's Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS). Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.**