

# Cops quiz suspect on missing S.I. girl

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POLICE were questioning a suspect early today in the Staten Island disappearance of 12-year-old Jennifer Schweiger.

The suspect was said to be the same homeless man with whom the girl — a victim of Down's Syndrome — was last seen walking when she vanished on July 9.

Investigative sources said the 43-year-old man also is a suspect in two other disappearances of young girls on Staten Island.

An assistant district attorney was summoned to the St. George precinct early today to question the suspect, who sources said had been identified by witnesses as the man last seen with the missing Schweiger girl.

He had been questioned earlier in the disappearance and let go, but police picked him up again yesterday, and one source said his arrest appeared "imminent."

It was not immediately known what new evidence prompted detectives to suddenly renew their interest in the suspect.

Sources said no trace of the Schweiger girl has yet been found and

it was not known if she is dead or alive.

The search for her had focused on the area around Willowbrook, once the country's largest mental institution and now called the Staten Island Developmental Center.

The suspect, who once served a prison sentence for sexual abuse and has a long arrest record dating back to the 1960s, also worked at Willowbrook about 20 years ago, authorities said.



**JENNIFER SCHWEIGER**  
*Missing since July 9th.*

Sources said he also is a suspect in the disappearances of two other girls:

● Holly Ann Hughes, who was 7 when she vanished in Port Richmond in July 1981 after buying a bar of soap at a grocery store.

● Tiahease Jackson, who was 10 when she disappeared in Mariners Harbor on Aug. 13, 1983, after leaving a welfare hotel to go to a fast food restaurant.