

Parents of Columbine killer talk to police

By Scripps Howard News Service
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LITTLETON, Colo. -- Jefferson County authorities have had their long-awaited meeting with the parents of Columbine High School killer Eric Harris.

The secret meeting was held Monday at an undisclosed location, and officials from both the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office refused to comment about it. More meetings are expected between Wayne and Kathy Harris and detectives looking into the deadliest U.S. school shooting .

Officials from the offices of the sheriff and district attorney agreed with the Harrises that they would not speak about the meeting.

Eric Harris and his friend Dylan Klebold carried out the April 20 attack on Columbine with guns and bombs, killing a dozen students and a teacher and wounding more than 20 people before they took their own lives.

Investigators sought a meeting with the killers' families in the days after the attack on the school. Klebold's parents met with investigators for the first time on April 30.

But, according to Jefferson County prosecutors, Wayne and Kathy Harris demanded immunity from prosecution before they would agree to an interview.

By early August, however, the couple dropped the demand for immunity, and discussions were started with a goal of arranging a meeting. Officials said at the time they made no concessions in exchange for the dropped immunity demand.

According to Stone's office, Wayne and Kathy Harris were cooperative.

Investigators had many questions they hoped to ask the couple, including:

-- What was Eric Harris doing over the weekend leading up to April 20?

-- Did Wayne and Kathy Harris see anything that helps explain the events of April 20?

Division Chief John Kiekbusch of the sheriff's office said several times over the summer that talking with the Harrises would help investigators resolve some questions.

"We've told them that we want to get as much information as we can on the Columbine case itself," Kiekbusch said in early August. "But we've also appealed to them on the basis that the information may help prevent this kind of thing from happening again."