Kreider

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cia was shot once in the back by a bullet that pierced her heart, and that Kreider put the gun in her mouth and pulled the trigger.

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office ruled the daughter's death a homicide and the mother's a suicide.

Police continued to search for a motive yesterday, saying that no obvious clues were yielded either from two handwritten notes left behind by Kreider or from conversations she had in recent days with acquaintances.

Detective Charles Beltram said that if Kreider planned the bloodshed, she apparently shared her intentions with no one.

"There was no mention at all that there was any conflict or that she was considering what happened," Beltram said. "That's why we're really in a holding pattern — I've got no motive at all."

The detective would not disclose details of the handwritten notes, but he said they offered convincing evidence that Kreider was responsible for the murder-suicide.

Police believe the mother, found lying on the garage floor with the car running, and her daughter, found inside the house, died between 7 and 7:30 a.m. Alicia was dressed for school, and a neighbor said he saw Kreider warming up her car about 7 a.m. The family dog was found shot to death under the car.

Family members were at the crime scene yesterday afternoon, solemnly walking in and out of the house where their loved ones had died. The family declined to comment.

Neighbors on Ridgemont Road described the area as "a close-knit neighborhood." Many said they knew Kreider, but said there were few children living on the block.

Jerry Davis, who lives a few houses from the Kreider home, said that when her grandson was with her, Alicia frequently came over to play. Davis said Alicia mentioned her parents' divorce about a month ago, but never seemed distraught and never spoke of problems at home.

"She was a very happy little girl," Davis said. "She was a very darling, precious little thing."

Alicia was a fifth-grader at St. John the Apostle Catholic School in North Richland Hills, which has about 350 students. Yesterday, a psychologist from nearby HCA Richland Hospital provided counseling for the children.

A school spokeswoman said some students probably would need more counseling.

"It's a terrible tragedy, and some of the students are not taking it well," spokeswoman Theda Riddle said.

Police said Kreider and her husband, David, were in the process of getting a divorce, which was described as amicable.

David Kreider, who once worked as economic development coordinator for the city of Fort Worth, took a similar position with Austin in June 1988. It was then that he and his wife apparently separated.

Davis, a real estate broker who sold the Kreiders the house at 4608 Ridgemont Road, said the couple put the home up for sale a year ago. Family members took the house off the market yesterday, she said.

At the Fort Worth Osteopathic Medical Center, where Kreider had been working weekend shifts, nursing supervisor Cox said Kreider had said a few weeks ago that she was looking for a new job so she could spend weekends with her daughter.

Cox said no other reasons were given for the job change.

"She was a pretty private person," the nursing supervisor said. "She was a very controlled person and not one to just chat."

Kreider switched to part-time work at the hospital Dec. 3 so she could begin a new job with Kimberly Home Health Care, a Fort Worth company that provides patients with medical attention in their homes.

Officials at that company declined to comment about their new employee.

Cox said she never heard Kreider express regrets about the job change.

"People do what they like doing," she said. "She was an excellent nurse. Everyone's very shocked."

Funeral arrangements for Marceen and Alicia Kreider are under the direction of Mount Olivet Funeral Home in Fort Worth.