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**HEADLINE: Mother tells of murder accused's suicide note;
Fingerprint on tin said to be victim'**

Arnot Mcwhinnie

A MAN accused of murder allegedly sent his mother a suicide note in a jewellery box the week after the killing, a court

heard yesterday.

Inside the box was a gold crucifix and chain, \$80 in notes, a credit card, and a letter for 40-year-old Amelia Crisp.

The note, from her son David Asbury, 21, said: 'Mum. I am sorry to do this to you. I have killed myself. You may think it is selfish but I can't go on any longer. I feel so depressed and lonely.'

It went on to advise Mrs Crisp to look in the boiler cupboard of her home in Castle Drive, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire, where she would find a tin and money for her. It ended: 'I love you, David.'

Mrs Crisp told Glasgow High Court that when she went to his room next day with her husband - Asbury's stepfather William - she had found an ornamental tin, which had a roof and a street scene upon it, containing money.

Earlier Mrs Crisp said her son had acted normally at around the time of Miss Ross's death. However the week after - on Monday, January 13 - he seemed morose and left home in the afternoon saying he was going to the jobcentre.

At midnight the Crisps' younger son Stephen wakened to hear Asbury arrive home and leave again in his car. It was then Mrs Crisp found the jewellery box containing the note.

Mrs Crisp said her son returned home the next day at 6pm. He told her he had been driving around and was exhausted. Later in the week detectives asked Asbury to go to the police station for fingerprinting. He was later arrested and police took away the ornamental tin.

The court was told that it had Miss Ross's fingerprint on it and contained more than \$2,000 in \$100 bundles. It has been alleged Miss Ross, a former bank teller, used to make up \$100 bundles in a like manner at the Royal Bank of Scotland.

But stepfather Mr Crisp, 35, said that the tin had been in the family home for three years, claiming he had found it while working at a skip-hire company in Barrhead. When asked if he was surprised at the amount of money it contained, he said he was not, since the accused was a 'saver'.

David Asbury, of Castle Drive, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire, denies murdering Miss Ross, 51, in her home at Irvine Road, Kilmarnock, between January 6 and 8 this year.

He further denies stabbing her in the throat and eye with a pair of scissors and a knife and robbing her of a tin containing a sum of money.

Asbury, who worked on an extension in Miss Ross's home two years before the killing, has lodged a special defence of alibi.

The trial before Lord Dawson continues.