

Spitzer orders probe of Tankleff deaths

by UPI

ALBANY, N.Y. - A special prosecutor named by New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer will review the case against Martin Tankleff, whose conviction for killing his parents was overturned. The Democratic governor's move comes less than two weeks after the Suffolk County district attorney announced murder charges against Tankleff would be dropped, the New York Post reported Sunday. Now state Attorney General Andrew Cuomo will investigate the deaths of Arlene and Seymour Tankleff, killed inside their Belle Terre home in 1988. Martin Tankleff, then 17, was convicted of the murders. But his conviction was overturned by an appellate court last month and he was freed after 17 years behind bars. District Attorney Thomas Spota announced that next Friday all charges would be formally dropped. "That's not going to happen," Cuomo told the newspaper. "The DA was going to do that, but this is no longer his case. All options are going to be preserved and no action will be taken until we've reviewed all the facts. We may very well arrive at the same conclusion that the DA did, but we have to do our own investigation."

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