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Laura Martin, 26, showed zest for airport job, family

Two parents and several aunts, uncles and cousins are trying to make sense of an unexpected death in Covington. Laura Anne Martin, 26, came home Sunday night after working a long shift as a gate agent for Comair airlines. She stopped to talk with her mother, fixed herself something to eat and went to bed. The next morning, when her mother tried to wake her up, she knew something was wrong.

Ms. Martin had died in her sleep. There were no signs she had had a seizure, no signs of trauma or distress, said her father, Norman Martin. The results of an autopsy are pending.

In high school, Ms. Martin had started having partial simple seizures that prevented her from getting a driver's license for years. She had been attending Northern Kentucky University part time, and was just three subjects short of getting a degree in English Literature when she died. She sang in the chorus at NKU, and was a longtime fan of country music and musical comedy. She enjoyed her job, her father said, and would often call her parents when someone famous checked onto a plane.

She was an affectionate child who never left a family gathering without giving hugs and kisses to her aunts and uncles and telling them how much she loved them, said her aunt, Elaine Isenhour of Covington. Her sister-in-law is expecting a child in March, and Ms. Martin was excited about becoming an aunt herself. She had already bought some baby presents, her father said. "I've never known a more loving child," he said.

Other survivors include her mother, Patricia D. Isenhour Martin of Covington; brothers, Sean M. Martin and Brian P. Martin, both of Covington; and grandmother, Mary Delores Isenhour of Covington.

Mass of Christian burial will be at 10 a.m. Friday at St. Benedict Church, Covington. Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Middendorf-Bullock Funeral Home, Covington. Burial will be in Mother of God Cemetery, Fort Wright. Memorials are suggested to St. Benedict Church, 338 E. 17th St., Covington, Ky. 41014; American Heart Association, 2936 Vernon Place, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219; or American Cancer Society, 6612 Dixie Highway, Suite 2A, Florence, Ky. 41042.

