



**Judge denies request for continuance of murder trial**

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PRINCETON, Ky. (AP) - A judge denied for the second time a defense request for a continuance in the murder trial of a man accused in the slaying of a western Kentucky teen-ager.

Caldwell Circuit Judge Bill Cunningham on Monday denied a motion to reconsider his original Oct. 30 denial of a defense motion for a continuance in the trial of Robert Keith Woodall.

Woodall's trial is scheduled to begin Feb. 23 in Princeton. Woodall, 23, of Greenville is accused of the January kidnapping, rape and murder of Sarah Hansen, 16, also of Greenville.

Woodall's lead attorney, Michael Williams, said he requested the continuance because of his involvement with another capital murder case scheduled in Graves County in February. Williams said he originally had been assigned to assist in the defense in the Graves County case. However, he said, personnel changes within the Department of Public Advocacy required him to become lead defense counsel in that case.

"I cannot effectively do both of these cases in a month," Williams said.

Cunningham said he believed that with the help of a co-counsel in the Woodall trial, Williams would be able to handle both cases.

Cunningham deferred ruling on a defense motion to suppress evidence obtained as a result of a second search of Woodall's apartment Jan. 28.

The second search yielded a bag of clothing.

Hansen was abducted Jan. 25 after renting a videotape. Her body was found at Luzerne Lake a few hours after her parents reported her missing.

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