

First of three murder suspects goes to trial

Written by

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23-year-old Kyle Quentin Triplett's trial is set to begin today.

Triplett, along with 22-year-old Matthew Brandon Dalrymple and 26-year-old Neil Matthew Sargeant, is accused of the November 2005 murder of 19-year-old Appalachian State University student Stephen Harrington. Authorities say Harrington's head and arms were bound with duct-tape and his body was set on fire in the trunk of a car. Reports say Harrington died of asphyxiation.

According to court documents, Harrington and the three suspects were involved in a cocaine deal.

While Triplett could still face the death penalty if convicted, prosecutors at a Friday Superior Court hearing say they no longer plan to seek the death penalty against Dalrymple, who has agreed to testify against the other two suspects.

All three men have been in jail since Harrington's body was found.

Triplett's defense team is already hard at work. His attorneys have asked a judge to suppress statements he made about what happened to Harrington. They say Triplett was under the influence of controlled substances and was not properly advised of his rights.