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Judge postpones murder hearing

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A change of venue hearing for capital murder suspect Clifton Eugene Belyeu was postponed after a short hearing in 54th District Court Friday.

Belyeu, 27, and Earnest Ray Moore, 21, are charged with the Dec. 10, 1985, murder of Melodie Bolton of West.

Belyeu's trial has been set by District Judge George Allen for May 13 in Waco's 54th District Court.

Belyeu's court-appointed defense attorneys, Ken Ables and Fred Horner, on Thursday officially filed a motion with Judge Allen requesting the trial be moved from McLennan County.

McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell and Assistant District Attorney David Deaconson told Allen that because the defense motion was not filed until Thursday, the state had not had adequate time to prepare evidence to dispute the defense claim that extensive pre-trial publicity will make it impossible for Belyeu to receive a fair trial in McLennan County.

Allen approved the state's request and set the change of venue hearing for April 11.

The defense has subpoenaed the *Tribune-Herald* to supply copies of the newspaper's stories about Mrs. Bolton's murder and Belyeu and

Moore's subsequent arrest.

Also subpoenaed were video tapes of television reports about the murder aired by Waco-area television stations KWTX, KCEN, and KXXV.

Allen informed the news organizations that the subpoenas will be valid for the April 11 hearing.

Moore will stand trial separately from Belyeu, because Belyeu has a prior felony conviction and Moore does not.

Feazell said Friday he is confident the Belyeu trial will be held in Waco and said there is a "50-50 chance" the trial will begin May 13 as scheduled.

During discussions on Friday, the state agreed to provide the defense with video recordings and photographs taken at the crime scene, as well as a list of potential witnesses.

Allen also approved a request by the defense for \$1,000 to be used to hire an expert to assist in picking a jury once the trial begins.

Deaconson said results of forensic tests being conducted in Dallas should be ready to show the defense during a discovery hearing also scheduled for April 11.

Belyeu and Moore were arrested in Johnson County by the McLennan County Sheriff's Department less than 12 hours after Mrs. Bolton, 35, was found shot and stabbed to death in the bedroom of her West home.