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Jury selection set in Graf case

Individual questioning of jurors in the capital murder trial of Edward E. Graf Jr. will begin at 9 a.m. Thursday.

More than 200 potential jurors reported Tuesday to Waco's 54th State District Court, where they filled out questionnaires and were given dates to report for individual questioning. Court officials have scheduled five potential jurors a day for questioning.

Graf, 36, is charged with two counts of capital murder in the August 1986 arson deaths of his two stepsons, Joby, 9, and Jason, 8. The boys were found dead inside a burned shed behind Graf's former residence at 509 Angel Fire Drive in Hewitt.

About 40 people were excused Tuesday from jury service by Judge George Allen for a variety of reasons, leaving 169 potential jurors from an original field of 350. Many others were excused for standard juror exemptions before Tuesday.

Jury selection should take three to four weeks, said McLennan County District Attorney Vic Fezell, who said he will prosecute the case with assistants Karen Amos and Mark Jaynes.

Fezell said prosecution testimony should take about two weeks.

Defense attorneys Charles M. McDonald and Lynn Malone expect defense testimony to take about 10 days.

Graf has been free on bond and working at a construction job in the McGregor area since his arrest in May.