



Riverside County District Attorney

# CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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## JUDGE ORDERS MAN TO STAND TRIAL IN 2006 PINYON PINES TRIPLE MURDER

INDIO – Today, March 26, 2014, a Riverside County Superior Court judge ordered a man to stand trial for the murders of three people at a Pinyon Pines residence in 2006.

Cristin Conrad Smith, DOB: 10-10-88, was held to answer on all three murder counts by Judge James Hawkins after a preliminary hearing held at the Larson Justice Center in Indio. Smith was ordered to return to court for an information arraignment on April 9, 2014.

Smith and co-defendant, Robert Lars Pape, DOB: 5-16-88, are each charged with three counts of murder in the deaths of Jon Hayward, Vicki Friedli, and Vicki's daughter, Becky Friedli. The murder counts pertaining to Hayward and Vicki Friedli have enhancements of personal use of a firearm. There is also a special circumstance allegation for both defendants alleging multiple murders. That allegation makes Pape eligible for the death penalty. A decision whether to seek the death penalty will be made at a later date by District Attorney Paul Zellerbach. Smith was a 17-year-old juvenile at the time of the murders and therefore is not eligible for the death penalty.

On Sept. 17, 2006, at about 9:50 p.m., a fire was reported at the Friedli home on Alpine Drive in Pinyon Pines. When firefighters arrived they found Becky Friedli's body burning outside in a wheelbarrow about 70 feet from the home, which was also in flames. After firefighters extinguished the blaze, they found the bodies of Hayward and Vicki Friedli inside. It was determined that both Hayward and Vicki Friedli had been shot.

In December 2013, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department's Central Homicide Unit presented the case to the District Attorney's Office for a second time for a potential filing decision. At that time, the DA's Office accepted the case, conducted follow-up investigation, and made the determination to take the case before a criminal grand jury.

Pape has been indicted by the grand jury on the same charges and allegations as Smith. Pape has appeared in court twice and his arraignment was continued both times. He is now scheduled to be arraigned on April 16, 2014, in Dept. 3S at the Larson Justice Center in Indio. The grand jury indictment takes the place of a preliminary hearing so Pape will now proceed to trial.

The case on both defendants, INF1400640, is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Michael Carney.