

NEOSHO DAILY NEWS

Hearing to allow Lindstedt to represent self set for August

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A hearing on whether Martin Lindstedt is competent enough to represent himself in a first-degree sodomy trial has been scheduled for late August.

By John Ford

A hearing on whether Martin Lindstedt is competent enough to represent himself in a first-degree sodomy trial has been scheduled for late August.

On Thursday, Lindstedt, a current resident of the Fulton State Hospital, appeared before McDonald County Associate Circuit Court Judge John LePage Thursday for a pre-trial conference.

During that proceeding, LePage denied Lindstedt's request to be released on his own recognicence, and set the hearing for Aug. 29.

Lindstedt, who is from Granby, is accused of inappropriately kissing a young family member on the child's back, buttocks and groin sometime between March and August 2003.

In July 2007, Lindstedt was ordered to allow the court to appoint a public defender to act as his legal counsel. The order came after Lindstedt balked at reading and signing a waiver for court appointed counsel. The document would have allowed Lindstedt to act as his own attorney.

Lindstedt balked at the waiver because he wanted to enter a 10-page motion and a writ of habeas corpus declaring he has been improperly imprisoned, a violation of his civil rights. Lindstedt contends the state does not have the authority to commit him to the Fulton State Hospital, as it was done without trial.

Lindstedt has filed a civil suit against the Missouri Department of Mental Health, Newton County judges Timothy Perigo, Greg Stremel and Kevin Lee Selby, Newton County Sheriff Ken Copeland, and Newton County Assistant Prosecutor Bill Dobbs, alleging he has been improperly imprisoned. No court dates in this civil case have been set.

Lindstedt has appeared in court many times since the allegations first came to light in 2005. In June 2006, he was committed to the state hospital and 22 counts of contempt of court — issued after repeated outbursts from Lindstedt during court proceedings in the summer of 2005 — were set aside.