

TRIAL DELAYED FOR GRANVILLE MAN CHARGED IN 2024 TRIPLE MURDER



POOL PHOTO, MICHAEL ALBANS

Triple murder defendant Brian Crossman Jr. sits with his public defender attorney Ben Nichols at the Warren County Superior Court.

NATASHA VAUGHN-HOLDRIDGE
 nholdridge@poststar.com

GRANVILLE – The trial of a Granville man accused of murdering his father, stepmother, and 13-year-old stepbrother in Vermont in 2024 has been delayed until the end of this year or possibly next year.

Brian Crossman Jr. was arrested in September 2024 and extradited from Warren County to Vermont, where he was charged with three counts of first-degree murder for the alleged premeditated killing of three of his family members.

The latest update in the case came Monday when the most recent status conference was held at Vermont Superior Court in Rutland, Vt. A review of the evidence in the case will likely push the start of the trial until the end of this year, or possibly the beginning of 2027, Crossman's defense attorney, Daniel Maguire, said.

At Monday's status conference, Vermont Superior Court Judge Cortland Corsones scheduled the next status conference for Crossman's case to be May 18.

"What I'd like to propose is an updated FSO. That will take us probably to the end of this year, or maybe early next year," Maguire said in court Monday. "We're doing our due diligence; that's all I can say at this point."

An FSO, or an amended felony scheduling order, is a formal court order, often tailored to specific cases, that sets deadlines for the turnover of evidence, according to the Vermont Superior Court website.

Crossman's case was originally expected to go to trial in January 2026, but it has been delayed a number of times. According to court documents, the potential jury selection in the case was expected to begin in February 2026, but at a status conference on Feb. 2, 2026, attorneys asked for another status conference to be held in 90 days. At the February conference, Maguire said that it was not reasonable to expect the case to go to trial before the end of the year. Crossman's case was then delayed until the May 4 status conference.

Crossman's arrest came shortly after Vermont State Police announced they were investigating the September 2024 deaths of three individuals who had been shot at their home on Route 133 in Pawlet, Vt.

A Vermont State Police Major Crime Unit affidavit details what led to Crossman's arrest. According to the affidavit, Crossman, who had been spending the weekend at his father's home, called police around 4 a.m. on Sept. 15, 2024, to report that he had located his three family members deceased in their home when he had gotten

back from a walk. The affidavit discusses the multiple guns that law enforcement found throughout the residence, as well as the various areas in the home where blood was found.

Crossman's father and stepmother had been married for about six months when they were killed. At the time of his death, Brian Crossman Sr. was a recently elected member of the Town of Pawlet Selectboard.

In a separate case, a U.S. District Court ruled last fall that Crossman would not be eligible to receive his father's death benefits. At the time of his death, Brian Crossman Sr. had a \$516,000 life insurance policy through Unum Life Insurance Company of America, which would have normally given Crossman Jr. and his sister each \$258,000 in the event of Crossman Sr.'s death.

In April 2025, Unum Life Insurance Company of America filed a "complaint for interpleader" in the case to determine how to best handle the benefits. Under the "slayer statute," a person cannot receive benefits such as funds or property from killing someone, and courts have the power to revoke, reform, distribute, or otherwise dispose of such property.

Natasha Vaughn-Holdridge is a staff writer. Contact her at: 518-742-3320; nholdridge@poststar.com

Hochul's popularity down, lead on Blakeman up in latest Siena poll

ROBERT GAVIN
 Albany Bureau Chief

ALBANY – Gov. Kathy Hochul lost points with registered New York voters but gained ground on Republican challenger Bruce Blakeman in a new Siena University poll released Tuesday.

Voters preferred the Buffalo-born Democrat to the Nassau County executive 49% to 33% if the race were held now, according to the survey of 806 voters conducted between April 27 to April 30 by the Siena Research Institute.

Blakeman, who trailed Hochul by as many as 26 points in a January poll, had chopped the governor's lead to 13 points last month. Hochul has now expanded her lead over Blakeman by three points.

On Monday, during a stop in the State Capitol, Blakeman scoffed at the Siena findings, predicting he would win in



Blakeman

November. "I don't pay attention to the Siena poll – they're always wrong," Blakeman said. He said he has done his own polling showing he is trailing Hochul by single digits.

Blakeman divulged he was planning to visit President Trump at the White House on Tuesday over several issues, including his campaign for governor. Blakeman has consistently defended Trump, but said he can work with New Yorkers who disagree with him on the president.

In the aftermath of the alleged assassination attempt of the president on April 25, Blakeman posted on X that it

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DEREK GEE, BUFFALO NEWS

Gov. Kathy Hochul speaks at an event on March 25 in Cheektowaga. A new poll shows that while she has lost popularity with voters, she has expanded her lead over her Republican challenger.