

Little Britain-area murder case delayed due to pandemic

Todd Vandonk

Alleged killer Ross Dion's innocence or guilt won't be determined until next summer.

Dion, who is charged with [first-degree murder and arson with disregard for human life](#) in connection to the death of Heeley Rae Balanga, was scheduled to have a jury trial starting in November but COVID-19 has delayed the process.

According to court documents, the trial dates were vacated and moved to the summer of 2021.

Balanga's body was found May 29, 2018 after a house fire on [Aino Beach Road, south of Little Britain, near Washburn Island in the former Mariposa Township](#).

After several days of witness testimony at a preliminary hearing in July 2019, Justice Donald J. Halikowski determined there was enough evidence to take the 35-year-old's alleged killer to trial.

Dion, 46, is scheduled to return to court in May 2021 for pre-trial motions while his jury trial is slated to begin on July 19, 2021.