

Judge lowers bond for man accused of stabbing two women in Nashville tanning salon

by Erika Lathon, Fox 17 News

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Man accused of stabbing two women in Nashville tanning salon is free on bond (MNPd)

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A judge lowered the bond on Wednesday for a man accused of stabbing his girlfriend and another woman in Nashville tanning salon after prosecutors discovered new evidence.

A judge agreed to lower Patrick Streater's bond from \$750,000 to \$25,000. Patrick Streater is charged in the 1996 stabbing deaths of his former girlfriend Tiffany Campbell and Melissa Chilton.

Police said Streater was dating Campbell and allegedly stabbed both women to death inside Exotic Tan for Men, where Campbell and Chilton both worked. The manager of the business said he found the two women's bodies after he couldn't reach them over the phone.

"I want to wish Patrick Streater the best," said Gail Chilton, Melissa's mother. "He's been blessed by God today to be let out. He has the opportunity to turn his life around. He can leave here go to church get on his knees and thank God."

Streater's Attorney Kyle Moreshead said the state is testing new evidence and the case against Streater is weak.

"The DNA evidence just keeps falling apart," Moreshead said. "They keep doing additional tests. They can't say he's included in the DNA pool anymore. The science is exonerating him."

Patricia Streater is overjoyed after Wednesday's hearing for her son.

"Thankful, we're just grateful," Streater said. "It's the happiest day we've had in years so we're just overwhelmed and truly blessed that this day has come."

Prosecutors are delaying Patrick Streater's murder trial and lowering his bond. Defense Attorney Ben Raybin isn't involved in the case but said lowering the bond is dramatic.

"Often a defendant will ask the court to lower bond, and the state will either oppose or not take a position," Raybin said. "The fact the state actually agreed to lower it by this much suggests they may have some concerns about his actual guilt in this case."

Gail Chilton said she has confidence in prosecutors but today is difficult.

"She will get to spend Christmas with her son," Chilton said. "I will not get to spend Christmas with my daughter."

Streater has to follow several conditions in order to remain free on bond including wearing an ankle monitor. Streater was indicted for the murders in 2013 but had to complete an armed robbery sentence in California before that state would extradite him to Tennessee. A new trial date has not been set.