

Hearing Adjourned on Plea of Cutting Defendant

A hearing to determine whether Gregory A. Hunt, one of the defendants in the Timothy Cutting case, can withdraw his guilty plea was adjourned for a month Wednesday in Delaware County Court.

Hunt's sentencing was postponed Dec. 17 after he wrote a letter to the court claiming that he had been misrepresented by his attorneys Robert Gouldin and William Schebaum.

Hunt, 20, of Unadilla pleaded guilty June 23 to first-degree manslaughter in exchange for a prison sentence of 23 years with five years of post-release supervision.

[an error occurred while processing this directive]Cutting's body was found by a woman walking through the woods in Sidney on July 11, 2003. An autopsy showed that Cutting, 29, died of severe head and body trauma suffered during an attack.

Otsego County Judge Brian Burns said Hunt's letter was less articulate than a motion written by a lawyer would have been, but said he would accept its claim that Hunt had received ineffectual counsel and that he was coerced into accepting the plea bargain.

Burns appointed lawyer Greg T. Rinckey to take over Hunt's case.

Rinckey asked for the adjournment because he said he had been unable to review Gouldin's case file. He said he had contacted Gouldin before Christmas and requested the file, but it never arrived, so he drove to Gouldin's office Wednesday and picked up the file.

Rinckey said the file was lengthy and requested a month to review it.

Burns said he would reschedule Hunt's hearing in about 30 days and would not grant any further postponements.

Hunt has been held without bail since his arrest July 12, 2003.

Of the seven defendants in the Cutting case, two are awaiting sentencing. Brendon King, 18, and Scott Crosson, 16, both of Sidney, are scheduled for sentencing Monday.