

DATE: 07/11/07
PUBLICATION: PRETORIA NEWS
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Zeilhofer death: case against driver postponed



□ Andre Stegmann Joubert

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The culpable homicide case against the man who was driving the vehicle in which Pretoria News reporter Cindy Zeilhofer was killed when it rolled in 2005, has been postponed.

The trial against Andre Stegmann Joubert (27), of Lynnwood Glen, was supposed to continue in the Pretoria magistrate's court, but as the prosecutor in the case was not available, it had to be postponed. Magistrate Lydia Painter told Joubert and the witnesses she would mark the case as preferential.

Joubert has pleaded not guilty to charges of culpable homicide and driving under the influence of alcohol. The accused and Zeilhofer (23) were driving in his Nissan Hardbody bakkie on June 10/11 2005. Joubert had turned into Simon Vermooten Road when the accident happened.

Yesterday two more State witnesses were ready to testify, including a friend of Zeilhofer's.

However, the prosecutor was busy with other cases and asked his colleague, Joyce Ntuli, to postpone the case on his behalf. Ntuli could not take over the case as she only received the docket that morning and had no time to prepare.

Defence lawyer Oeloff de Meyer asked for a trial date as soon as possible, saying: "(Do this) for the sake of the accused and the deceased's family. They have been under this trauma for very long now."

He added that he was not happy with yesterday's postponement, but would not oppose it as "this miscommunication or misinformation" was not Ntuli's fault, but that "of another Einstein who doesn't know how to do his work".

The trial will continue on December 11.



□ Cindy Zeilhofer

