

# Bowers bound over for trial on murder charge

By **BOB WATSON**  
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Edward G. Bowers must face a circuit court trial on charges he murdered his wife last month, Cole County Associate Circuit Judge Thomas L. Sodergren said Monday.

"It was a probable cause hearing and there was a determination that a felony was committed," Cole County Prosecutor Bill Tackett told reporters after Monday afternoon's preliminary hearing.

Bowers, 67, was charged with second-degree murder for killing Marcella Carlock, 57, on Jan. 15.

Jefferson City Police Detective Lee Tubbesing testified Bowers confessed to the crime during an interview in the Lafayette County Jail.

"He said he hit her with a baseball bat, then he bound her hands with duct tape," Tubbesing told Sodergren. "He bound her face with duct tape ... and then stabbed her in the chest."

Tackett submitted two digital photographs of the victim's body as evidence in Monday's hearing. One showed a pillow over her head and the other pictured duct tape wrapped over her mouth.

Bowers was arrested about 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 15 — a Saturday — about two hours after Carlock's body was found in an upstairs bedroom of her duplex.

A Lafayette County Sheriff's deputy arrested Bowers on Interstate 70, after Jefferson City Police issued an alert that Bowers likely was heading toward Kansas City, where he lived before marrying Carlock.

Tackett said he didn't expect the second-degree murder charge to change as the case moves to the circuit court.



Edward Bowers is escorted to court Monday at the Cole County Courthouse by his attorney, Jan King, and Cole County Sheriff's Lt. Russ Bemboom.

Stephen Brooks/News Tribune

"When you deal with domestic matters, oftentimes they are not premeditated," he explained.

If convicted, Bowers could face up to life in prison. But, with a second-degree murder charge, the death penalty is not a possibility.

Tackett wouldn't comment Monday on any motive for the crime, or whether Bowers has a previous criminal history.

"Not unlike other murder cases, this one's had a certain degree of rumors surrounding it — some of it true, some of it false," Tackett said. "Those are things that are all going to come out in

discovery — they're all part of the circuit court developments that we're going to have, now."

Tackett also could not predict when Bowers' trial might begin.

"When it hits circuit court, there's a determination by the defense counsel whether to plead guilty or not guilty," he explained. "If they want to pursue a trial, there's a lot involved here. ... There's quite a few things that will occur here before you would have a jury trial."

Public defender Jan King wasn't available for comment.

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