

Charges shifted in bowling alley shooting

The Cole County Prosecutor's Office is reworking its case against 17-year-old Jeffrey Abbott over a fatal shooting at the West Gate Lanes Bowling Alley last August.

A preliminary hearing in the case was scheduled for Tuesday morning in front of Judge Byron Kinder when the word came there would be no action.

Prosecutor Bill Tackett said they are planning to first go ahead with charges Abbott faces in a home invasion case from March 29 on Randall Drive. Abbott is facing robbery, first-degree burglary and armed criminal action charges in that case. They are refiling their manslaughter charge against Abbott over the killing of Winfred Kidd.

"We made sure that Mr. Kidd's mother knew what we were doing and she is in favor of this action," said Tackett. "She wants to see Mr. Abbott convicted for both crimes."

Late last year, prosecutors met with members of Kidd's family, who were demanding action in the case.

At that meeting on Dec. 12, a witness told authorities about talking with Abbott over the phone shortly after the shooting. Based on this information Tackett filed charges against Abbott.