

Trial canceled after Bush takes plea agreement on May 24

Written by Marty Randall

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The criminal trial of State of Indiana vs. Michael J. Bush that was scheduled to start on Monday, May 24, in Scott Circuit Court was abruptly canceled after the defendant entered into a plea agreement.

Bush, 33, who is also known as Michael J. Christie, was accused of slashing the throat of a friend, Edward "Eddie" Caudill, at Caudill's home on August 1, 2009. After his arrest, Bush was charged with Class A felony attempted murder, Class B felony aggravated battery and two counts of Class C felony battery when the case was originally filed in Scott Circuit Court.

After talking with Bush and his attorney on that Monday after prospective jurors had been interviewed that morning, Prosecutor Jason Mount filed two new charges, Class B felony burglary and Class C felony criminal recklessness, and Bush agreed to plead guilty to the two new charges.

A pre-sentence investigation was ordered, and Bush's sentencing has been scheduled for 2 p.m. on June 22.

The Class B felony charge carries a maximum sentence of ten years with the Class C charge carrying a sentence of from two to four years. Plea agreement documents filed with the court indicate that the sentences Bush would receive will be served concurrently.

Documents also note that Bush may present evidence and argue any aggravating or mitigating circumstances concerning the crime at the sentencing hearing. Prosecutor Mount may also make recommendations as to Bush's sentence, but those recommendations are not binding on the Court, which will have the last say on any jail term or conditions.

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