

Murder charge dropped in '88 death of ex-priest

Diana Baldwin • *Modified: January 3, 2001 at 12:00 am* • *Published: January 3, 2001*

A murder charge filed five months ago against a man accused of killing a former priest in 1988 has been dismissed by an Oklahoma County District Court judge.

After a preliminary hearing, Special District Judge Donald Deason refused to order Ricky Carmel Givens, 42, to stand trial in the Nov. 30, 1988, death of Richard Frank Dolan, 66, of Del City.

Deason ruled that the state showed Givens left bloody fingerprints on a ream of paper, but there wasn't any evidence that the defendant killed Dolan at his apartment, 134 NW 17, Assistant District Attorney G.W. Paull said.

Givens denied killing Dolan, but admitted he was inside the apartment and found the injured priest, an Oklahoma City police report stated. The defendant told police he walked in the house through an open side door and he checked to see whether Dolan was breathing. He said he might have gotten blood on his hands.

The defendant admitted he took the victim's car that was stripped when it was recovered, police said. The burglary occurred too long ago for charges to be filed, Paull said.

Givens' fingerprints were not found on a hammer that was recovered at the scene and believed to be used against Dolan. The medical examiner subsequently ruled the victim died of hypothermia after he was knocked unconscious from multiple head injuries.

Givens was arrested after police learned July 17 that the bloody fingerprints matched through an automated fingerprint identification system. The computer system keeps fingerprints in a database and routinely compares them with possible suspects in a range of criminal cases.

Archive ID: 834397

NewsOK.com has disabled the comments for this article.