



By *The Record*
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Married pair wish to be tried together

STOCKTON - A pair of married men charged with a Tracy woman's murder will have to wait to find out if they get to sit next to each other in court and hold jailhouse meetings.

Robert Morgan, 39, and Jorge Morgan, 24, had told San Joaquin County Superior Court Judge Bernard Garber that they were denied justice because they couldn't coordinate a defense.

The judge set a hearing for Tuesday. It didn't happen when a defense attorney objected to having a prosecutor argue against it.

San Joaquin County Deputy District Attorney Valli Israels said she feared it could compromise courtroom security. Israels pointed out that six months earlier Judge Cinda Fox was attacked in that very courtroom. She was prepared to have jail and court security staffers testify.

The defense attorney asked that a neutral party - and not a prosecutor - help resolve the issue. Garber agreed and rescheduled the case for later this month. San Joaquin County Counsel will lead the hearing.

The Morgans are charged with robbing and stabbing to death 58-year-old Cynthia Ramos on Aug. 6 in Tracy, where she lived.