



Staff Photo/Mark Buffalo

HEATH STOCKS is led away from the Lonoke County Courthouse by state police and sheriff's deputies after his arraignment on triple capital murder charges. Stocks is accused of the shooting deaths of his father Joe Stocks, 46; mother Barbara Stocks, 43; and sister Heather Stocks, 18, on Jan. 17.

Stocks enters no plea at Tuesday arraignment

Arraignment of Heath Stocks, 20, of Furlow on triple capital murder charges was Tuesday morning.

Family members at the arraignment quietly called out their concern for him as he left the courtroom of Chancery/Circuit Judge Lance Hanshaw. "We love you, Heath" they said.

No plea was entered at the hearing and Hanshaw granted a request to reserve a plea until the results of a mental examination are complete.

Stocks was in court to answer charges in the killings of his father Joe Stocks, 46;

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mother Barbara Stocks, 43; and sister Heather Stocks, 18, on Jan. 17 at their home in Furlow.

Edgar Thompson was appointed as defense attorney by the court.

Hanshaw granted Thompson's request that a mental examination of Stocks be done. Thompson also made a motion for discovery.

The motion for discovery is normal, Lonoke County Prosecuting Attorney Larry Cook said after the hearing.

"All that does is request we disclose all the evidence we have in the case to the defense."

Hanshaw also cautioned those involved with the case to be careful making remarks to the press.

"I'll impose a gag order if I have to," he said.

Hanshaw recessed the court to wait for completion of the mental examination.

No date has been set yet for the examination.

Stocks was impassive through most of the proceedings, looking straight ahead while quietly answering questions posed to him by Hanshaw.

Tears quickly welled up, though, when the family called to him on his exit.