

Family of slain woman returns for hearing in case

1991 SLAYING

Stephanie Hogland of Wentzville was found in ditch.

DNA LINK

Man charged after DNA test for unrelated case.

By Valerie Schremp Hahn
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

TROY • Gene and Gayle Hogland sat with friends and family in court Thursday and got their first look at their daughter's accused killer.

Exactly 16 years ago, they got their last look at their daughter — on the day they buried her.

The Hoglands traveled from their home in Springfield, Mo., to the courthouse in Lincoln County to attend a bond reduction hearing for Michael E. Dowell, charged last month with killing their 18-year-old daughter, Stephanie, in 1991.

Dowell, 44, of Ferguson, is being held in the County Jail without bail.

The bond reduction hearing didn't happen on Thursday; instead, Dowell asked for a different judge. Associate Circuit Court Judge David Ash was assigned to hear his case and another hearing was scheduled for next month.

Dowell is charged with first-degree murder, armed criminal action and forcible rape after the state crime lab reported a match of Dowell's DNA to Hogland's case. Dowell had submitted a DNA sample on Oct. 30 as part of his probation for an unrelated assault case in St. Louis. Investigators said the DNA from Hogland's case was the first

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