

Chandler hearing to resume April 22

Tim Hrenchir
Topeka Capital-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A judge has scheduled a hearing that began April 16 to resume at 3:30 p.m. April 22 regarding Dana Chandler's request for a fourth trial.

That request must be refused because Chandler didn't mail it until after the March 21 deadline, Shawnee County chief deputy district attorney Charles Kitt said at the April 16 motion hearing.

Chandler replied by saying she actually beat the deadline. She said after an employee picked up inmate mail the morning of March 21 at the Shawnee County Jail, Chandler dropped her request in the mail there later that day.

But security camera video taken at the jail disproves that, Kitt said at the April 16 hearing.

Chandler asked for time to view video evidence involved

Kitt showed Shawnee County District Court Judge Cheryl Rios video of what Kitt said was Chandler dropping the manila folder containing document in the mail at the jail on March 23.

Kitt suggested Chandler had been caught in a lie.

Chandler then asked for time to examine the video evidence involved.

Rios initially scheduled the hearing to continue April 18 — then, because of a scheduling conflict — rescheduled it to

resume at 3:30 p.m. April 22, said Lea Welch, administrator for Shawnee County District Court.

Chandler said March 20 in court that she knew her deadline was March 21

Chandler, 65, was convicted March 7 of two counts of first-degree murder in the July 2002 gunshot deaths in southwest Topeka of her ex-husband, Michael Sisco, 47, and his fiancée, Karen Harkness, 53.

Chandler served as her own attorney at her trial after firing her court-appointed attorneys. She told Rios at a March 20 scheduling hearing that she was submitting several post-conviction motions, some of which she had sent by mail.

Chandler said March 20 that one motion would seek a new trial. She acknowledged state law required that document to be submitted by March 21, and said she would mail it by then. She didn't ask for an extension to that deadline.

Chandler also asked at the March 20 hearing for legal assistance, saying while she intended to continue to represent herself in court, she needed an attorney to help her regarding procedural and substantive matters.

Attorney David E. McDonald was subsequently appointed to assist Chandler.

McDonald sat beside Chandler in court at Thursday's hearing. Seven peo-



Dana Chandler's request for a fourth trial must be refused because she didn't file it by the March 21 deadline, a prosecutor said April 16.

FEBRUARY FILE PHOTO/THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

ple, including a Capital-Journal reporter, watched from the gallery. Those included District Attorney Mike Kagay for part of the hearing.

Chandler was convicted in 2012 of murdering Harkness and Sisco in 2002

Chandler was convicted in 2012 of murdering Harkness and Sisco; saw

those convictions overturned in 2018 because of prosecutorial misconduct; then was given a second trial, which ended in a hung jury, in 2022.

Chandler's third trial, held earlier this year, took place in Westmoreland after she was granted a change of venue. Pottawatomie County jurors deliberated 4.5 hours March 7 before convicting her.

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Arrest made in fatal shooting

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A man was arrested April 17 in connection with a fatal shooting about 3 a.m. that day at a convenience store in northeast Topeka's Oakland community, police said.

Oscar A. Ramirez, 24, of Topeka, was pronounced dead at the scene at the Kwik Shop at 746 N.E. Wabash Ave., said police Lt. Donna Eubanks.

Caleb E. Brown, 19, of Topeka, was booked at 5:20 p.m. April 17 into the Shawnee County Jail, where he was being held without bond early April 18 in connection with voluntary manslaughter involving an unreasonable belief of justified deadly force and possession of a firearm under the influence of alcohol or drugs, according to jail records.

No formal charges had been filed April 18 in connection with the homicide, which was Topeka's fourth this year.

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Hospital: Data safe after breach

Stacey Saldanha-Olson
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A Kansas hospital is reassuring patients their medical data is safe at its facility.

After recent media coverage related to a data breach of patient's private information and nude photos, Lawrence Memorial Hospital president and CEO Russ Johnson sent out a public statement saying the breach affected less than half of 1% of its patients.

"In 2023, we identified a breach of protected health information that affected a very small number of our patients — less than .004 percent. At the time, we notified all affected patients in writing," Johnson said in his written statement. "We took steps to ensure those patients were aware of the situation and what we were doing as a result, and we responded to inquiries from patients whose records were affected in a private and respectful manner."

How did 425 patients have their surgical and private data breached?

In 2023, an unnamed male physical therapist working for the University of Kansas Health System was caught accessing medical files of at least 425 plastic surgery patients who weren't under his care, according to a lawsuit.

The patients had received such medical procedures as breast augmentation and other forms of plastic surgery through Lawrence Memorial Hospital's Plastic Surgery Specialists of Lawrence.

As a result of the data breach, a class action lawsuit was filed April 15 against Lawrence Memorial Hospital, KU Health and the data company Epic Systems Corp. The data that was viewed included patients' nude photographs, body measurements, names and other personally identifiable information like Social Security numbers and home addresses, according to U.S. District of Kansas court documents.

How is Lawrence Memorial Hospital handling data breach and lawsuit?

The hospital's public statement began saying about 180 million individuals across the United States had their medical data breached in 2024 and the hospital will take recent coverage of the lawsuit as an educational opportunity.

"Many breaches are inadvertent — for example, accidentally clicking on the wrong patient record when trying to access another — whereas others are intentional," Johnson's statement read. "At LMH Health, we've been fortunate in recent years to avoid major breaches of patient privacy, but like any other healthcare system, we aren't completely immune. Recent media coverage on the topic provides an opportunity to help

you understand all the ways in which we work to protect your privacy—and what we do when a breach is discovered."

The statement goes on to say that the hospital immediately cut off access to any patients' data and opened an investigation when they were made aware of the breach. The hospital's statement also says that they reported to incident to "the appropriate authorities with the State of Kansas" and patients whose data was accessed.

"Protecting patient privacy is a complex but high-priority endeavor for the entire healthcare industry, and that is certainly the case for us here at LMH Health," Johnson said in his statement. "Respectfully notifying our patients in the event of such an incident is also of concern to LMH. It's just one more way in which we care for you and your family."

The hospital also addresses the recent lawsuit in its statement claiming that neither of the unnamed plaintiffs had their data breached.

"Because these individuals are named in a separate Notice of Claim received by LMH on the same day the lawsuit was filed, we were able to determine that there was no breach of LMH records for either of these two patients," Johnson said in the written statement. "This explains why they did not receive a notification from LMH. To be clear, any patient who did not receive written notification from LMH in 2023 can rest assured their records were also not accessed."

DAILY RECORD

BIRTHS

St. Francis
Jadyn and Brandon Maier, Manhattan, boy, April 16

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Actor-playwright **Elaine May** turns 93. Singer **Iggy Pop**, 78. Stage actor **Patti LuPone**, 76. Actor **Tony Danza**, 74. Actor **Andie MacDowell**, 67. Singer **Robert Smith** (The Cure), 66. Actor-writer **John Cameron Mitchell**, 62. Actor **Toby Stephens**, 56. Singer **Glen Hansard**, 55. Comedian-actor **Rob Riggle**, 55. Comedian-actor **Nicole Sullivan**, 55. Artist-actor **David Choe**, 49. Actor **James McAvoy**, 46. Actor **Gugu Mbatha-Raw**, 42. Actor **Frank Dillane**, 34. Singer **Sydney Sierota**, 28. — USA TODAY Network

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Monday, April 21, the 111th day of 2025. There are 254 days left in the year. On this date in:

753 BC: This is the traditional date when Romulus and his twin brother, Remus, founded Rome.

1782: King Buddha Yodfa Chulaloke founded the city of Rattanakosin, now known as Bangkok.

1789: John Adams was inaugurated as the first vice president. George Washington was sworn in as the first president nine days later. Adams served two terms under Washington from 1789 to 1797.

1816: English novelist and poet Char-

lotte Brontë was born in Yorkshire, England. She was best known for "Jane Eyre," which was published in 1847.

1836: Texas forces under Gen. Sam Houston defeated Mexican troops at the Battle of San Jacinto, the final battle of the Texas Revolution. The battle against Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna and the Mexican army only lasted for 18 minutes. It paved the way for Texas to become independent of Mexico.

1910: Samuel Clemens, renowned for his works under his pen name Mark Twain, died of a heart attack at the age of 74 in Redding, Connecticut. His most famous work includes "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and its sequel, "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

1926: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II was

born in London. Her reign is the longest of any British monarch. She was queen regnant of 32 sovereign states during her lifetime. She was the first child of King George VI and Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon.

1930: A total of 322 inmates were killed and 130 others were injured in a fire at the Ohio State Penitentiary in Columbus. Many of the prisoners burned to death when they were unable to escape their locked cells. The source of the fire allegedly came from a candle flame which ignited a pile of oily rags. It was the nation's deadliest prison fire.

1934: The Daily Mail printed a photograph depicting the head and long neck of the Loch Ness monster, sparking decades of curiosity. However, the iconic image was later revealed to be an elaborate hoax.



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