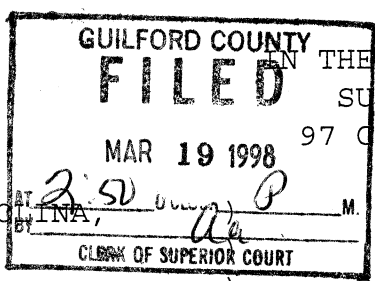


NORTH CAROLINA
GUILFORD COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,



IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
97 CrS 39580; 97 CrS 23654

vs.

RONNIE LEE KIMBLE,

Defendant.

) REQUEST FOR THE COURT TO
)
) MEDiate THE SELECTION
)
) OF A TRIAL DATE

COMES NOW the defendant, through his undersigned attorney,
and respectfully shows the court the following:

1. On November 21, 1997, in a motion filed with the court,
the undersigned set out a number of complex issues on which
defense counsel were working and requested that the court set a
trial date in May, 1998 or later.

2. Subsequently, the defendant was arraigned for arson and
conspiracy to murder on December 4, 1997. The arson indictment
injected a totally new issue into the case and will require the
appointment of a defense forensic fire expert.

3. On March 2, 1998 this matter appeared on the Superior
Court trial calendar and the undersigned did specifically request
at the calendar call that all pending pretrial motions be heard
on March 10, 1998. Assistant District Attorney R. E. Panosh
consented to said date but called another case for trial on March
10 and delayed hearing of defense motions until March 12.

4. On March 12, 1998 Judge Freeman agreed to hear motions
in the case of Ronnie Lee Kimble although the codefendant,
Theodore Kimble, was not before the court because one of his
lawyers was unavailable. When the undersigned asked the court
for a firm trial date in July, 1998, or thereafter, Assistant
District Attorney R. E. Panosh stated that no such date could be
set because a calendar was unavailable.

5. After Judge Freeman declined to unilaterally set a firm
trial date, R. E. Panosh announced that the Kimble cases would be
called for trial April 6, 1998. The undersigned learned that
April 6 is currently not available. Obviously a firm trial date
cannot be set without defense counsel being consulted in advance.

6. The undersigned objects to any attempt to set this case for trial on April 6, or any other date in April. There are a number of critical areas of preparation that have not been completed. With the exception of appointment of an investigator, forensic specialists and production of essential jail records, none of the defendant's pretrial motions have been heard by the court.

7. Although Assistant District Attorney R. E. Panosh treats both Kimbles as codefendants, he has never joined the cases for trial, thus precluding the defense from having its motion for severance considered by the court.

WHEREFORE, the undersigned objects to any attempt to put this matter on the trial calendar the week of April 6, 1998 or any other week in April. Further, Ronnie Lee Kimble prays that this Honorable Court exercise its inherent authority to mediate selection of a firm trial date.

This the 18 day of March, 1998.

HATFIELD & HATFIELD

By 

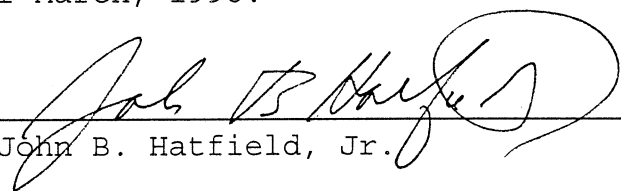
John B. Hatfield, Jr.
Attorney for Defendant
219 W. Washington Street
Greensboro, NC 27401
(336) 273-0589

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Request for The court to Mediate the Selection of a Trial Date was served upon the State by hand-delivering a copy thereof to:

Mr. R. E. Panosh
Assistant District Attorney
Guilford County Courthouse
Greensboro, NC

This the 19th day of March, 1998.



John B. Hatfield, Jr.

