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Graf trial testimony may begin April 11

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Testimony in the capital murder trial of Edward E. Graf Jr. could begin April 11, court officials said last week.

Seven jurors have been selected after eight days of jury selection by prosecutors Vic Feazell, Karen Amos and Mark Jaynes and defense attorneys Charles M. McDonald and Lynn Malone.

On Thursday, a juror was excused because of a conflict with his job, but an-

other was selected, leaving the number of jurors selected at seven. The courthouse was closed on Friday for the Easter holidays.

Graf, 36, is charged with two counts of capital murder in the August 1986 arson deaths of his two stepsons, Joby, 9, and Jason, 8. The boys were found dead inside a burned shed behind Graf's former residence at 509 Angel Fire Drive in Hewitt.

Testimony will begin after 12 jurors

and two alternate jurors are selected.

Prosecution testimony should last about two weeks, Feazell said. McDonald said defense testimony will take about 10 days.

Judge George Allen of Waco's 54th State District Court will rule today if a 62-year-old salesperson at Regan's Smart Fashions will remain on the jury.

The woman told Allen Thursday that her employer is a good friend of Graf's ex-wife, lives upstairs from her and

sometimes keeps their child. The juror told Allen that she is concerned that her service on the jury, regardless of the verdict, might affect her relationship with her employer or her employer's relationship with Graf's ex-wife.

The juror said, however, that her concerns would not influence her performance as a juror.

Allen said he would rule today, when jury selection resumes, if she can stay on the jury.