

City man charged in beating a cabbie to undergo psychiatric assessment

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EDMONTON - A man charged with aggravated assault in the savage beating of an Edmonton cab driver has been ordered to undergo a thirty day psychiatric assessment.

24-year-old Kenneth Anthony Butler, is also expected to face charges in the death of his sister-in-law, whom police believe was killed a short time after the cabbie was beaten.

The 61-year-old driver is in critical but stable condition in hospital in a medically induced coma.

During his brief court appearance today, Butler told the judge he wanted to represent himself, instead of having a lawyer do it.

A forensic psychiatrist in the courtroom approached the bench and told the judge that wasn't a good idea, adding that the suspect wasn't capable of representing himself.

The cab driver was found beaten last Friday night and the body of 25-year-old Stephanie Rae Butler, was found in her home the next day, when relatives grew worried about not being able to reach her. (BN, ccg)

- Broadcast News