Judge sets March date for Lindsay Clancy retrial in the killings of her three children

By Shelley Murphy and Travis Andersen Globe Staff, Updated November 16, 2026, 4:52 p.m.

PLYMOUTH — A judge on Monday set a March date for Lindsay Clancy's retrial in the killings of her three children in 2023, as prosecutors indirectly suggested they'll retry her on charges of first-degree murder.

Judge William F. Sullivan set the March 29 trial date during a hearing in Plymouth Superior Court, after pressing prosecutors for a decision on whether they plan to retry Clancy on first-degree murder charges.

Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Sprague said the Commonwealth "is ready to pick a jury trial date," but declined to specify on what charges.

First-degree murder charges would require the empanelment of a second jury. If prosecutors pursue lesser charges of second-degree murder or manslaughter, then Clancy would be allowed to waive her right to a jury trial and face a trial before a judge.

“The die has been cast,” Clancy’s lawyer Kevin Reddington told the judge. “I think you can read between the lines that when they say that the case is going to require a jury, that it’s an indirect comment from the DA that they intend to proceed on first-degree murder indictments.”



Defense attorney Kevin Reddington spoke to the media outside the courthouse after the hearing on Monday. PAT GREENHOUSE/GLOBE STAFF

Sullivan also set a Dec. 30 date to discuss pretrial issues in the case, and a Feb. 18 date for the final conference before the retrial.

“I feel bad for Lindsay,” Reddington told media as he left the courthouse. “I feel bad for her family. I feel bad for the jurors that haven’t been picked yet. I feel bad for everybody that has anything to do with this case.”

He added that the prospect of a retrial is very emotional and distressing, “but nevertheless, we’ve got to get it done and that’s why we pressed to have it done this spring.”

Still, he said the defense may have an advantage over prosecutors during the retrial “because we’ve already had a dry run. We know what their case is.”

Plymouth District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz, who has yet to announce whether he will retry Clancy on first-degree murder charges, did not attend Monday’s hearing. His office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Shortly after the hearing, attorney Martin G. Weinberg, one of Clancy’s lawyers, filed a petition with a single justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court appealing Sullivan’s denial of a defense motion to dismiss the murder charges based on double jeopardy. He urged the justice to hold a hearing, then report the matter to the court’s seven-member bench for a ruling.

Reddington said he was not seeking a stay of the retrial while the petition is pending and expected the court would rule quickly on the matter.

Clancy, 36, admitted she strangled 5-year-old Cora, 3-year-old Dawson, and 8-month-old Callan with exercise bands in the basement of their Duxbury home on Jan. 24, 2023, after sending her then-husband, Patrick, out to pick up medication and takeout for dinner.

She slashed her wrists and neck after killing the children and then jumped out of a second-story window, leaving her paralyzed from the waist down.

Clancy pleaded not guilty to three counts of first-degree murder, asserting that she should not be held criminally responsible because of mental illness; she claims she was suffering from postpartum psychosis after the birth of her third child and hallucinated a man's voice commanding her to kill herself and the children.

Prosecutors argued that the slayings were premeditated by Clancy, who wanted to kill herself and her children because she was unhappy with her life.

In September, Sullivan declared a mistrial after jurors reported they were deadlocked 11-1 after a six-week trial, with all but one voting to find her not guilty by lack of criminal responsibility.

Clancy faces mandatory life in prison if convicted of first-degree murder charges. If acquitted based on insanity, she would be committed to a state psychiatric hospital,

where she would remain while undergoing periodic evaluations by a judge to determine whether she could be released without posing a danger to the community.



Lindsey Clancy sat in the courtroom during the hearing for a new date for the retrial of the triple murder case. GREG DERR/POOL

During Monday's hearing, Sullivan rejected Sprague's request to delay Clancy's trial until later in the year while the two prosecutors assigned to the case handle other cases that are slated for trial in the spring.

"This is a case that I want to get tried," Sullivan said. "We've all done retrials and in general, the sooner a case is retried the better for all parties, including the attorneys, instead of waiting a year to get things done."

Last week, Sullivan denied a defense motion to dismiss the charges against Clancy on double jeopardy grounds, rejecting claims that he improperly declared a mistrial and that it would be unconstitutional to try Clancy for the same grounds twice.

In a 55-page petition filed Monday with a single justice of the state's highest court, Weinberg argued that Sullivan failed to conduct a meaningful after the jury foreperson sent notes during deliberations indicating that a holdout juror was failing to follow instructions regarding reasonable doubt.

At the time, Sullivan questioned each juror at sidebar about whether they were able to follow his instructions on the law, but denied a defense request to delve deeper, saying it wouldn't be proper to intrude on jury deliberations. He denied a defense request to replace the juror with one of the alternates.

In Monday's petition, Weinberg argued the judge could have questioned jurors specifically about their ability to follow his instructions regarding reasonable doubt without invading jury deliberations.

"The mere fact that the jury had reported a deadlock did not relieve the trial court of its obligation to investigate juror misconduct and ensure that the defendant received a fair trial," Weinberg wrote.

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