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# Rand trial is extended so physician can testify

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The judge in the Andre Rand kidnap-murder trial yesterday granted the defense a continuance to Monday so that an unidentified physician can testify.

The delay means it will be Tuesday before Justice Norman J. Felig hands the case to the Supreme Court jury of eight men and four women.

Closing statements by Assistant District Attorney John Loughrey and defense attorney Jerome V. Giovinazzo are now tentatively scheduled for Monday afternoon, should the defense rest its case, as expected, earlier in the day.

Felig granted Giovinazzo's request for the continuance after two witnesses called by the defense testified about observations they made after Jennifer Schweiger, a 12-year-old girl with Down's syndrome, disappeared on July 9, 1987 from near her home in Westerleigh.

The girl's partially decomposed body was discovered Aug. 12 in a shallow grave on the grounds of the former Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook, about 500 feet south of a campsite that Rand, then a 43-year-old drifter, maintained near Building 23, an unoccupied facility.

Both witnesses produced by the

defense said they had contacted police about their sightings, but they were not among the 10 witnesses called by the prosecution at the trial.

The prosecution witnesses said that between 2 and 3 p.m. they saw Rand, or a man resembling him, walking with the girl beginning a block from her home and continuing into the grounds of the center where they were seen by center employees who knew Rand. One employee last saw the two a short distance from the campsite and walking in its direction.

Giovinazzo, in his opening statement, conceded that Rand was with Jennifer on the afternoon of July 9. He said Rand believed she was a resident of the center and had wandered off. The lawyer said Rand was walking her to the administration building when they became separated and did not see each other again. Rand is a former employee of the center.

The first defense witness, Ernest M. Russo, a court officer in Criminal Court, Stapleton, said he knew Rand from having seen him on a number of occasions.

Russo testified he had halted for a traffic signal at the Bradley Avenue overpass of the Staten Island Expressway in Meiers Corners at about 4 p.m. on July 10 — the day after Jennifer disappeared — when he saw a middle-aged man holding the hand of a girl as they walked across the overpass. He said his view of the girl was largely obscured by her companion.

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