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## **Fort Collins man charged with five counts of murder in death of 20-year-old**

*By Jon Pilsner  
The Reporter-Herald*

A man accused of murdering a Fort Collins woman has been charged with 10 felony crimes — including five counts of murder for the woman's death.

Prosecutors formally filed charges this week against Joseph Luther Curl, 29, of Fort Collins for the May 30 murder of 20-year-old Linnea Dick.

Dick's body was found at her home, 124 Yale Ave. in Fort Collins, by Poudre Fire Authority firefighters who were responding to a house fire.

The Larimer County Coroner's Office determined Dick died of asphyxiation due to choking and that she had been sexually assaulted.

Curl faces one count of first-degree murder and four counts of felony murder, all of which are class 1 felonies, for Dick's death.

He also faces charges of sexual assault, first-degree arson, aggravated robbery with the intent to kill, first-degree burglary and first-degree aggravated motor vehicle theft.

Because the latter charges are felonies that prosecutors believe took place before, during or directly after Dick's death, they can file individual charges of felony murder for each count against Curl.

He faces a minimum of life in prison without parole if convicted on any or all of the murder charges. Curl also could face the death penalty if the 8th Judicial District Attorney's Office decides to pursue it.

Investigators said they believed two fires burning in the house when Dick's body was found — one in a bedroom, the other in the basement — were deliberately set.

Dick's car was missing from the house when police began their investigation, although they did not say if they found Curl with the car.

Curl was arrested June 2 after giving a voluntary interview to Fort Collins police.

Curl is due in court Monday for a status conference on his case. He is being held at the Larimer County Detention Center in Fort Collins without bond.

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