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By **Matt Rocheleau**

GLOBE STAFF MAY 06, 2015

Authorities in Massachusetts and the US Virgin Islands are trying to arrange for Mikhail Young's return to St. Thomas, where he faces allegations that he killed both of his parents in a vacation apartment.

Because St. Thomas is a US territory, its criminal justice system is very similar to those in the rest of the country.

Like many suspects arrested outside of the jurisdictions where they've been accused of crimes, Young will face an extradition process. But the pathway to his return to the Virgin Islands is likely to be simpler than in cases where a US citizen is accused of a crime on foreign soil.

What will happen next in the case?

Young and his legal representation could file paperwork to try to fight extradition process.

Terri Griffiths, acting attorney general of the US territory's Department of Justice, said that if Young tries to avoid returning to face charges there, Virgin Islands authorities would ask Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, to override those efforts.



“It’s a formality,” said Griffiths. She said there’s “never any objection,” in her experience, except for in “extraordinary cases,” like in situations in which there is substantial evidence that authorities were pursuing the wrong suspect, she said.

Griffiths said she expects Young will soon be boarding a flight back to the Virgin Islands, escorted by two police officers from the territory.

What charges does Young face?

According to a copy of the Virgin Islands warrant for Young’s arrest, he faces: two counts of first degree murder; two counts of second degree murder; two counts of first degree assault; two counts of illegal possession of a dangerous weapon while committing first degree murder; two counts of illegal possession of a dangerous weapon while committing second degree murder; and two counts of illegal possession of a dangerous weapon while committing first degree assault.

According to Title 14 of the Virgin Islands Code, a person convicted of first degree murder will be sentenced to life in prison without parole, and a person convicted of second degree murder will be sentenced to serve at least five years in prison.

What will the court process be like?

Griffiths said that within a day or two after he returns to the Virgin Islands, Young will be arraigned in St. Thomas Superior Court.

From there, the court process will be very similar to how proceedings work in the US, Griffiths said.

“It’s essentially identical to any other state court in the US,” she said.

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