

BAIL IS \$750,000 FOR MAN ACCUSED IN DISMEMBERMENT

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Body

Bail was set at **\$750,000** Monday for a Russian immigrant living in Eden Prairie **accused** of killing and dismembering his wife in February.

Pyotr Shmelev was sent back to jail after his **bail** was set during his first court appearance Monday in Hennepin County District Court.

The 29-year-old computer engineer was charged with second-degree murder Friday in the death of his 30-year-old wife, Svetlana Pedash. According to police, he stabbed her multiple times on Feb. 24 during an argument and then used an electric saw to dismember her body.

Portions of her body were then discarded as he drove south from Eden Prairie to Missouri, police said. He kept her head, though, in the trunk of his car. He turned himself in to police on March 14.

According to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Shmelev was a permanent resident alien of the United States and could face deportation if convicted.

He and his wife were married in 1995 in Indiana. They moved to Minnesota about a year ago when he took a job as an Internet consultant. The couple's 4-year-old daughter is now in the custody of her godparents in New York.

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