

Next steps in the Boston bombings case

Investigators are continuing to build their case against **Dzhokhar Tsarnaev**, the surviving suspect in the Boston Marathon bombings. The 19-year-old could face the death penalty after federal prosecutors charged him with using a weapon of mass destruction

1 Grand jury: Prosecutors present evidence to group of 16-23 citizens empowered to decide if accused should stand trial

2 Indictment: Formal charge of criminal action issued if grand jury decides there is enough evidence

3 Arraignment: Accused required to appear before court to enter plea



PROSECUTION

■ Could file further charges against Tsarnaev once more is known about plot and whether he had ties to terrorist organizations

■ Will make decision on whether or not to seek death penalty "within weeks". Ultimate decision to be made by U.S. attorney general



4 Plea bargaining Accused may agree to plead guilty during arraignment in return for concessions from prosecution, which could include more lenient sentence

5 Discovery: If accused enters "not guilty" plea, case goes to trial. Defence and prosecution begin process of gathering evidence, exchanging information and preparing arguments

6 Trial: Likely to be many months away in Tsarnaev's case. Accused – currently in hospital with gunshot wounds to head, neck, legs and hand – would have to be declared fit to stand trial by judge assigned to case

DEFENCE

■ Will consider possible cooperation if case against Tsarnaev is strong

■ May use access to Tsarnaev as bargaining chip if prosecutors want to find out if he has useful information

■ Will appoint at least two attorneys with experience in death penalty cases

■ May ask to bar statements made by Tsarnaev after his arrest because police did not immediately read him his **Miranda rights** – warning given to suspects before interrogation

*In addition to federal charges, Tsarnaev could face state charges in connection with fatal shooting of MIT police officer, **Sean Collier***