

At long last, Dippolito divorce is final

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WEST PALM BEACH — The brief, tumultuous marriage that became the backdrop of a sensational murder-for-hire plot caught on video is now over.

A divorce has been finalized between Michael Dippolito and his former wife Dalia, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison this summer after a jury convicted her of hiring a hit man to kill him. At the time Boynton Beach Police began an undercover sting operation and captured the plot on hidden camera, the couple had been married six months.

The Dippolito drama first entered the public spotlight when Dalia Dippolito's arrest came with a widely-viewed video of the newlywed crying outside the couple's Boynton Beach home, where police had staged a crime scene and led her to believe that her husband had been killed. At her trial, which garnered international attention, Dalia Dippolito's defense claimed her husband was in on the plot and they made the whole thing up in hopes of landing a reality TV show.

Through the trial and sentencing, both husband and wife said they were looking forward to finalizing their divorce, which according to court records became official last week.

Under the agreement, Michael Dippolito will get to keep the couple's Boynton Beach townhome and everything in it. Each will keep assets they brought into the marriage and will be responsible for their own debts.

Dalia Dippolito, who is out on bond as she appeals her conviction, now lives with her mother less than two miles away.

"He's looking forward to moving on with his life and putting this behind him," Michael Dippolito's divorce attorney Jason Brodie said. "As much as he wishes the criminal part of this was over as well, he understands that this is part of the process."

Dalia Dippolito's attorney, Michael Salnick, said his client is happy the divorce is final.

Salnick referenced Michael Dippolito's restitution payments to victims in a fraud case for which he was convicted. Michael Dippolito said Dalia, who he met through a professional escort service, made off with tens of thousands of dollars he intended to use to repay victims.

"It is certainly my hope that with the settlement behind him now that it will help him with his own legal matter," Salnick said.