

HUSBAND TARGETED IN ALLEGED MURDER-FOR-HIRE CAN GET DIVORCE, JUDGE DECIDES

By Jerome Burdi
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BOYNTON BEACH

A couple at the center of an alleged murder-for-hire plot might not be together much longer.

Circuit Judge Chuck Burton on Tuesday denied a motion to prevent the divorce of Michael and Dalia Dippolito of Boynton Beach until after her case of solicitation to commit first-degree murder is resolved.

Authorities said Dalia Dippolito tried to hire a hit man to kill her newlywed husband in August. Unknowingly, she hired an undercover police officer. Police let her believe her plan worked, setting up a fake crime scene at her home Aug. 5 and videotaping her reaction to the news her husband was killed.

Dalia Dippolito's attorney, Andrew Pastor, had argued the two court cases are linked and that if she spoke openly in a divorce case, it could hurt her in the murder-solicitation case.

Authorities said ownership of the couple's townhouse was the motive for Dalia Dippolito, 27, wanting her husband dead.

She remains under house arrest in her mother's Boynton Beach home.

Jason Brodie, one of Michael Dippolito's lawyers, argued that their marriage lasted only six months and there was no reason his client should remain linked to a to his wife for what could be years until the end of the case.

Burton agreed.

"If she is convicted, there would likely be a lengthy appellate process," Burton wrote in his order. "The husband could be left without remedy for years."

Burton said Dalia Dippolito would not necessarily incriminate herself in a divorce proceeding.

Michael Dippolito, 38, filed for divorce Sept. 9.

"He just wants to move forward," Brodie said Thursday. "And now the divorce will proceed. He needs to put this behind him."

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