

Target of alleged hit by wife will ask judge for title to home; learns he is a father

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By Missy Diaz
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Dalia Dippolito, the Boynton Beach newlywed accused of soliciting the services of a hitman to kill her husband, should have no legal right to the couple's townhome, according to documents filed in the couple's divorce case.

On Tuesday, Michael Dippolito will ask Circuit Judge Chuck Burton to remove his wife's name from a quit claim deed he signed less than a month after the couple got married.

Michael Dippolito purchased the home for \$225,000 on Jan. 28. On Feb. 2 he married Dalia Mohammed and on Feb. 28 he changed the deed to list both of their names, according to court records. Michael Dippolito's attorney, Jason Brodie, will argue that one of the two witnesses listed on the quit claim deed was not in the room when the deed was signed, making it invalid.

A later deed titling the home solely in Dalia Dippolito's name was never recorded, according to Brodie. That deed was signed July 31, five days before a hitman was to fatally shoot Michael Dippolito twice in the head, allegedly at the request of his wife. She was arrested Aug. 5 and is on house arrest at her mother's, awaiting trial on a charge of solicitation to commit first-degree murder with a firearm. '

Dalia Dippolito's arrest was recorded by Boynton Beach police. Police staged a crime scene and rolled video as Dalia Dippolito, 27, shed crocodile tears upon being told that her husband had been killed.

Authorities say she paid a supposed hitman - actually an undercover police officer - \$1,200 and promised another \$3,000 to shoot her 38-year-old husband. Police believe it was Dalia Dippolito's third unsuccessful attempt to have her husband of six months killed.

Andrew Pastor, Dalia Dippolito's divorce attorney, declined to comment on the case.

Learning his wife's alleged plot to kill him wasn't Michael Dippolito's only August surprise. On Aug. 18, he was slapped with a paternity suit by Karen Tanne, who claimed he fathered her 12-year-old son. Tanne could not be located for comment.

"He had no idea and now all of a sudden he's in the limelight and the next thing he knows, he's being told he has a son," Brodie said. "First he learns his wife is trying to kill him and now he's learned he has a son. How much can one man take?"

Paternity tests have confirmed Dippolito is the boy's father and Dippolito plans to "do what's right and is looking to build a relationship with his son," Brodie said.

Michael Dippolito and Dalia Dippolito have initiated divorce proceedings against each other. In addition to asking a judge to remove Dalia Dippolito's name from the townhome's deed, Michael Dippolito wants a judgment against his wife for \$240,000, the amount he says she induced him into giving her with the understanding that she would pay \$191,000 he owes in restitution.

In 2003, Michael Dippolito received a prison term followed by 28 years of probation for participating in a phone scam.

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