

Dippolito, invoking Fifth Amendment, is mum in court

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DELRAY BEACH - Dalia Dippolito, the newlywed accused of ordering up the murder of her husband of six months, appeared in court Tuesday as her husband asked a judge to strike her name from the deed of the couple's marital home.

Subpoenaed by attorneys, the 27-year-old took the stand to face questioning about the transfer of Michael Dippolito's \$238,000 Boynton Beach home to her.

And not a word fell from her apparently collagen-enhanced lips besides her name and: "I invoke my Fifth Amendment right to remain silent."

Dippolito rebuffed even the most basic of questions, including when the couple married.

Her husband, Michael Dippolito, told Circuit Judge Chuck Burton that he agreed to transfer assets to her as he was paying off a "probation lien" and his wife suggested it would be a good idea.

"At that point in time did you know she was going to try to kill ya?" slipped in Michael's Dippolito's attorney, Jason Brodie.

"Objection!" interjected Dalia's Dippolito's divorce attorney, Andrew Pastor.

"Sustained," said a chuckling Burton.

At issue is whether the deed on the home, in Boynton's Renaissance Commons, was legally executed because a signed witness to the transaction at Independence Title in Delray Beach was not present in the room when the newlyweds put pen to paper.

The witness actually was sitting about six feet away behind a glass partition.

Burton, the famed hanging chad judge of Election 2000, is now a family court judge presiding over the couple's divorce. He did not rule Tuesday.

Dalia Dippolito is currently out on bond, on house arrest, awaiting trial for solicitation to commit first-degree murder. Police say when a paid assassin ran off with her money and an iced-tea-topped-with-antifreeze she gave her hubby failed to get the job done, she turned to a lover to get him killed - a lover who called police.

"I can see mediation isn't going to be very fruitful in this case," Burton said.

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