Metro Court trial for missing woman's husband postponed until May

By Leslie Hoffman
Tribune reporter

Diazien Hossencofft could have two trial dates in May -- one in Metro Court, the other in state District Court -- both connected with the case of his missing wife, Girly Hossencofft.

Hossencofft was supposed to go on trial in Metro Court on misdemeanor charges of violating a restraining order on Monday, but that trial has been postponed until May.

May is also the month that Hossencofft is scheduled to face state District Court charges accusing him and his girlfriend of killing Girly Hossencofft.

Girly Hossencofft disappeared last September after co-workers at the bank where she was employed reported to police that she had not shown up for work. She hasn't been seen since then, and her body has not been found.

Hossencofft's misdemeanor trial was delayed until May because of a defense scheduling conflict.

According to the Metro Court criminal complaint, the case began on May 24, 1999, when police were dispatched to a Bank of America branch on a domestic dispute call and were met by Girly Hossencofft.

She told the officers that she had gotten a call that morning at the bank from her estranged husband. Diazien Hossencofft had been served with a restraining order, and when he phoned her, Girly Hossencofft hung up on him.

About two hours later, Hossencofft called the bank's human resources department and said his wife was going to be arrested within the next three days and that he would be there to watch, the complaint indicates.

He also is accused of calling the bank again and asking two different co-workers if he could speak with his wife, which would be a violation of the restraining order.

Police took statements from bank employees and then issued a summons for Hossencofft.

The couple were engaged in a long and bitter divorce, which included a fight over the

custody of Diazien Hossencofft's young son.

On Sept. 10, Girly Hossencofft disappeared.

In November, a state District Court grand jury indicted Hossencofft and his girlfriend, Linda Henning, on murder, kidnapping and other felony charges.

Prosecutors will seek the death penalty against the two, who will be tried together.

A May 8 trial date on the murder charges was set Friday, but the date could change if attorneys are not ready to go to trial.

In a flurry of motions also filed Friday, Henning's new attorney requested all pertinent documents, records and reports in the case.

Public Defender Trienah Meyers Gorman also requested that Henning be allowed to wear plain clothes instead of jail garb during all court appearances and be given access to a law library.

Gorman took over the case last week when Henning's private attorney withdrew, saying Henning could no longer afford to pay him.

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