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Illegal gambling sentences stalled

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Nearly a year after they pleaded guilty and six months after they were originally scheduled to be sentenced, three Cape men who ran a sports betting business are still walking free.

The delay "minimizes the impact of what a predatory gambling business has on a community. These guys weren't doing this for social reasons. Or Catholic Church bingo," said Les Bernal, national director for the advocacy group Stop Predatory Gambling. "This was a highly profitable business."

Adam Hart, 85, and William Neofotistos, 61, both of Dennis, and Timothy Reardon, 33, of Barnstable pleaded guilty in April to running an illegal sports betting business, sometimes making upward of \$2,000 per day, according to court records.

The "bookie" operation ran out of Hart's Dennisport restaurant, the Ocean House.

The three were due to be sentenced last year on Sept. 22. That was rescheduled to Dec. 22.

All three men have been free on bail.

Although the three men were ordered by a U.S. District Court judge to forfeit nearly \$800,000 in cash, their possible prison sentences have lingered.

There is no limit to how long sentencing can linger in court, said Christina DiIorio-Sterling, spokeswoman for U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz. Each of the men's charges could bring up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

But the end of the year came and went without any action in the case or requests by attorneys to continue the case even further, court records state.

DiIorio-Sterling did not respond to other questions about what is causing the delay, when her office expects sentencing to happen or general questions about the sentencing process.

Along with the delay, there has been near silence around the case for several months. Since sentencing was continued in September, no other documents have been filed in the case. And those involved in the case have been mum on what might happen next.

Attorneys Robert George, who represents Hart and Reardon, and Andrew Berman, who represents Neofotistos, declined via email to comment for this story.

The case gained notoriety in 2010 amid rumors that Cape and Islands District Attorney Michael O'Keefe might have been involved in tipping off the gamblers, leading them to shut down their business for about six months.

In proceedings against the three men, Assistant U.S. Attorney Fred Wyshak Jr. said a customer of the men was tipped off by an elected official in the Cape district attorney's office.

O'Keefe, the only elected official in that office, has vehemently denied the accusation since it surfaced in June.