

O'Connell prosecutor aims to shield teen's identity

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QUINCY — The special prosecutor in the underage-sex and drug-trafficking case against Quincy developer William O'Connell wants a judge to redact an affidavit and other documents filed by O'Connell's attorney in order to protect the identity of the alleged victim. Norfolk County Superior Court Judge Kenneth Fishman granted prosecutor Andrew Berman's request to temporarily impound the documents while he reviews to what extent they should be redacted.

"I'm protecting the privacy interests of the victim," said Berman, who is prosecuting the case for the Norfolk County district attorney's office.

The voluminous discovery motions, filed last week, include an affidavit from O'Connell attorney Stephen Delinsky that divulges a range of personal details about the alleged victim, who was 14 at the time of her interaction with O'Connell in 2009. She is 16 today.

The motions state that the girl's "credibility will be a key issue in this case."

The motions only identify the girl by her initials, but they contain the names of her mother and her mother's boyfriend, and specify where she has lived and attended high school.

They also detail the girl's past run-ins with child protection agencies and police, and contain information about alleged prior sexual assaults.

Delinsky could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Berman said he is asking Fishman to redact the documents to shield from public view "any materials which may lead to the identity of the victim."

He said those include documents that specify the girl's date of birth, her mother's name, her mother's boyfriend's name, information about her siblings, the places they've lived, the name of the high school in which she is enrolled and her email address.

The request comes after Berman and Delinsky went all the way to the Supreme Judicial Court in an effort to keep impounded an affidavit that was in Quincy District Court in conjunction with a search warrant executed at O'Connell's home.

A Quincy District Court judge ordered a redacted version be released after a period of impoundment, a decision that was appealed to the Supreme Judicial Court. That court has yet to rule.

Delinsky joined with Berman in opposing the lifting of the search warrant impoundment, arguing that the affidavit contained allegations that could impair O'Connell's fair-trial rights.

O'Connell was indicted in August on four counts of statutory rape for interactions with the girl between June and September of 2009.

He was also indicted on cocaine-trafficking charges after cocaine was allegedly found when police searched his condo at Marina Bay in Quincy.

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