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Murder trial waits

A misdemeanor conviction in Deschutes County could hold up Roy Summers' murder trial in San Bernardino, Calif.

The Deschutes County District Attorney's office wants Summers, 39, to serve time for a fourth-degree assault conviction before he travels to California to face murder charges.

Summers was charged in Bend with attempted murder, but a Deschutes County Circuit Court jury Tuesday found Summers guilty of fourth-degree assault for breaking Connie Kohler's arm.

Kohler, who lived with Summers in Redmond, is one of seven women who's been married to Summers. She divorced him after he broke her arm.

Summers is willing to travel to California to face charges of murdering Beverly Wise, another ex-wife, and kidnapping her two children. But prosecuting attorneys in Bend first want him to "pay" for his Oregon crime.

He'll have to wait a month until a presentence report is prepared. The district attorney's office will ask that Summers be sentenced to one year in jail, the maximum sentence he could receive for the misdemeanor.

But Craig Emerson, Summers' attorney, doubts if his client will receive the maximum sentence. Since Summers will have been held for four months when he is sentenced, he'll probably be sent immediately to California, predicted Emerson.

Emerson wants to waive the presentence report, which Judge John Copenhaver would use when imposing Summers' sentence, and send Summers to California immediately.

"The judge has heard all the facts," said Emerson. "The judge can impose a sentence. California

wants him. He should go there to settle the matter."

Summers won't be prosecuted on charges of kidnapping and attempting to kill his mother still pending against him, said Jim Harvey, who's prosecuted the Summers cases. His mother, Loucylle Herman, testified in an earlier case that her son didn't kidnap or try to kill her.

In that trial, Summers was charged with kidnapping Kohler, but found innocent.