

## Trial begins for woman accused in arson for attention

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Delsordo

A Greeley woman charged with starting her rental home on fire in December 2010 falsely confessed to the crime because she has a chronic need for attention, her attorney said Monday.

Trial began Monday for Kendra Delsordo, 41, who is charged with first-degree arson and criminal mischief, both felonies, and misdemeanor reckless endangerment for allegations that she set fire to her rented home while her visiting 17-year-old son was inside.

“You will see that the physical evidence doesn’t support that,” said defense attorney Eang Man of the arson charge during opening statements. “The physical evidence supports a woman who likes negative attention, positive attention, any sort of attention.”

The trial is expected to last throughout the week before a jury of 10 women and three men in Weld District Court Judge Timothy Kerns' courtroom.

On Dec. 18, 2010, firefighters were called on a carbon monoxide alarm to her rented home in the 2500 block of 17th Avenue. Firefighters found the home burning when they arrived and extinguished it. They found 15 different sites in which it looked like a flame had been applied to the walls.

"After the fire is extinguished ... three expert investigators arrive and all come to the same conclusion. The fire set at the defendant's house was intentionally set," Deputy District Attorney Sarah Bousman said.

"This fire was anything but an accident. This trial will show you the defendant knew exactly what she was doing when she held an open flame to the outside of her house with her son inside."

Man said the physical evidence supported a dryer fire and that the investigating officer elicited a false confession, feeding Delsordo information during her police interview.

"She embraces the attention that he is giving her," Man said of Detective Mike Prill's interview with her. She told him she went outside to smoke a cigarette, and lit a stick on fire and extinguished it beneath the dryer vent.

Both attorneys explained that Delsordo's need for attention and being a victim goes back to 1997, when she falsely claimed to two different police departments that she'd been sexually assaulted or kidnapped. In 2005, she made a false rape and kidnapping claim in Larimer County, as well, attorneys said. In that case, she also fabricated evidence, Bousman said.

Delsordo apparently suffers from a rare mental disorder in which she falsely reports and commits crimes for attention.

Delsordo was convicted in 1996 of killing her 3-month-old baby in 1992 in Washington. At that time, she was diagnosed with Munchausen syndrome by proxy, a condition in which parents make their children sick to attract attention to themselves. According to news reports of that case, Delsordo drew attention when she tried to sue the hospital for her baby's death. Investigators determined she had given her baby a fatal dose of a sedative. She was sentenced to 13 months in prison for second-degree manslaughter.

In 2008, Delsordo helped Greeley police set up her friend, Alana Noke, who she said wanted to hire someone to kill her boyfriend's parents. Delsordo notified police of the plot, and help set up a meeting between Noke and an undercover officer posing as a hired killer in 2008. That was the same year Delsordo was released from a deferred judgment out of Larimer County for false reporting, tampering with physical evidence and attempting to influence a public servant. Noke was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

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