

Protective order debated in fugitive's arrest for beating mom

GELA PASCOPPELLA

FORD — A city man who fled after allegedly assaulting his mother and was found by a judge in Indiana last month, defended in court that he violated probation.

Although Baker, 34, faces charges that he violated probation by assaulting his elderly mother in November 1991 in their Oronoque home, Tara Knight, his attorney, State's Attorney Mary M. differed over whether a protective order was in place.

The mother has bailed Mr. out, and he's living with her, Knight told Superior Court Karen Nash Sequino. "She really doesn't want one [protective order]."

Sequino said the matter has to be discussed with the court's Family Court office to determine the need for a protective order. A protective order was filed after Baker was charged with assaulting his mother on Nov. 25, 1991.

"It's old, and it appears to be somewhat stale," Sequino said. The case was continued to April 10. Janet Baker, his mother, said her son never intentionally hurt her, and she never wanted him arrested.

She said when her son tried to help her up, he wrapped his arms around her rib cage area and pulled her up, which probably injured her ribs. Police said she was treated for fractured ribs at Millford Hospital. He was supposed to appear in court in 1992 on those charges, but never did.

Baker was arrested Feb. 5 for a second-degree assault of a victim over 60, disorderly conduct, and failure to appear in court. He was arrested in Indiana after FBI agents in Indianapolis received a call from New Haven FBI agents, saying Baker was there.

Baker was previously convicted in 1988 for second-degree arson for a house fire in Millford in which gas jets were left on. The incident could have caused a major explosion, jeopardizing the lives of firefighters.

He was sentenced to seven years in prison, suspended three years, and three years probation, court officials said. He has drunk driving and failed to appear arrests on his record, officials said. Under his probation, he was not to commit any

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