

The Sun

**Judge denies Cordero's bid for transfer  
Man accused in plot to kill his wife won't leave county**

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Mark C. Cordero -- the Columbia man accused of plotting to kill his wife -- will stay in the Howard County Detention Center until his November trial.

Howard County Circuit Judge Diane O. Leasure on Friday denied a request from Cordero that he be transferred to a Towson mental hospital because of his psychiatric problems.

"The court is not insensitive to the fact that the defendant is suffering from major depression and could benefit from inpatient psychiatric care," Leasure wrote in the opinion.

"The court is not persuaded, however, that the psychiatric treatment he has been receiving at the Howard County Detention Center is so lacking that he should be immediately transferred to Sheppard Pratt," she stated.

Defense attorney Rebecca A. Nitkin said she was disappointed by Leasure's ruling.

"We believe that he needs immediate medical attention that he is not getting at the Howard County Detention Center," Nitkin said.

At the hearing Monday, prosecutors argued that if Cordero needs additional care, a private psychiatrist can be hired to aid him while he is in jail.

They "vehemently" opposed the defense's request, noting that Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital is about three miles from the home of Regina Cordero -- the woman he is accused of targeting.

"We're very gratified" by Leasure's decision, said State's Attorney Marna McLendon.

Cordero is accused of hiring a hit man to kill his estranged wife in July.

Police say Cordero met twice with an undercover officer posing as a hit man.

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