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Trooper guilty of violating restraining order

By GREG COOK

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NEWBURYPORT -- A local state police trooper was found guilty yesterday of violating a restraining order obtained by his estranged wife.

Jeffrey Pattow, whose address was listed as 124 North End Blvd., Salisbury, was found guilty of violating a restraining order his former wife, Kimberly Brady, had taken out against him when he allegedly visited her Amesbury house on Feb. 8, 1999, to retrieve some of his belongings.

Judge Jonathan Brant decided the case at Newburyport District Court yesterday after Pattow waived a jury trial and opted instead to have Brant, who regularly sits in Cambridge District Court, decide the verdict.

Brant sentenced the 33-year-old state trooper to one-year's unsupervised probation. The judge ordered Pattow to obey the restraining order and pay \$35 to the state Victim/Witness Assistance Fund. The restraining order is in effect until Aug. 17 and can be renewed, with a judge's approval, for an additional year then.

Assistant District Attorney Murat Erkan had recommended probation and that Pattow attend an anger management program. Erkan said this is the sentence he generally recommends for a person with no criminal record facing this sort of allegation.

Pattow has 30 days to file notice of an appeal.

Pattow was assigned to the state police barracks in Newbury and more recently to the Danvers barracks. He has been on an unpaid leave of

absence at his own request, Lt. John Melia at the Danvers barracks said in February.

"Certainly he was tried as any ordinary person would be tried for a crime," Erkan said.

Sgt. Ronald Sieberg, a spokesman for the state police, did not know Pattow's current status last night. He said any trooper convicted of any criminal charge would face internal disciplinary action, including the possibility of dismissal depending on the charge. However, a conviction, he said, would not automatically result in a trooper's dismissal.

This is the second time the case has been tried. Judge Leah Sprague declared a mistrial in the case on Feb. 16 after a six-person jury at Newburyport District Court was unable to come to a verdict after a day-and-a-half of testimony and more than five hours of deliberations.

"We presented similar evidence ... virtually the same evidence," said Erkan yesterday.

In testimony at the February trial, Pattow said he had gone with his father to the Amesbury police station around 8:30 that night to get police to escort him to Brady's house to pick up suits, ties, jackets, childhood memorabilia, movie memorabilia and hockey gear. Earlier that day a Newburyport judge had issued an order allowing Pattow to retrieve some of his belongings from Brady's residence as long as he was accompanied by police, Pattow's attorney, Gerard LaFlamme Jr. of Haverhill said then.

Police declined to accompany Pattow to Brady's residence after they called her and she denied Pattow access. An Amesbury police officer testified at the first trial that Pattow became upset and said they were not interpreting the judge's order correctly. However, police still refused to escort him so Pattow left the station.

Pattow and his father, Stephen, said after police declined to take Jeffrey to Brady's house they drove to Stephen's Amesbury home. There they talked until about 9 p.m. when Jeffrey left, Stephen said at the initial trial.

However, two Amesbury police officers testified that they never saw Pattow's father at the station that night. Stephen Pattow testified that he went with his son to the station but waited in his son's pickup truck while his son went in to speak to police.

Brady testified in February that her dog began barking outside shortly after police called her. When she walked around the side of the house, she found Pattow on her front porch and his truck parked in front of the house. She said he yelled obscenities at her while demanding his

were dispatched to her home at 8:37 p.m. but when they arrived Pattow was not there.

Brady was charged with making several annoying telephone calls to Pattow in October 1998. Last August, Judge Sprague ordered the case continued without a finding for three months and ordered Brady to stay away from Pattow. She also ordered Brady to pay Pattow \$77 restitution for tracing the calls and \$35 to the Victim/Witness Assistance Fund.

Pattow and LaFlamme could not be reached for comment yesterday or this morning. Brady and Stephen Pattow declined to comment on the case this morning.

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