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Mom in jail can't call injured daughter

By Missy Stoddard
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A 45-year-old woman accused of trying to murder her daughter cannot have any contact with the girl, now 6, a judge ruled Thursday.

Circuit Judge Stephen Rapp denied a request by Olga Ferrera to have telephone contact or allow her daughters to visit her at the jail. Ferrera also has an 11-year-old daughter.

Ferrera faces attempted murder and aggravated child abuse charges stemming from the June 2005 assault in the family's home west of Boca Raton. She reportedly stabbed her then 5-year-old several times in the face and sliced her neck, according to sheriff's reports. Shortly after the attack, Ferrera spoke of demons in the house, the reports stated. Two mental health experts hired by the defense found Ferrera was insane at the time, according to Assistant Public Defender Dan Vogel. The state is awaiting test results from a third expert.

Calling Ferrera's request "absurd," prosecutor Jennifer Millien said the stabbing was the second time Ferrera had tried to kill her younger child. The first time she attempted to choke her, according to Millien, who added that neither child wants to see Ferrera.

"The victim is terrified of her mother," Millien told the judge. "She deals with scars on her face every day at school."

The incident occurred a week after Ferrera's husband, David Carlo, filed for divorce. A few years earlier, Ferrera was involuntarily committed to a mental health facility after her husband told authorities she was "overly aggressive" with the same child.

Ferrera's divorce lawyer, Lisa Macci, said outside court that she planned to ask a family court judge to permit visitation for the older girl.

"She hasn't seen her child in I don't know how long," Macci said. "She loves her children. It's a bad situation all around. She had no life other than her family and children."

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