

ATTEMPTED MURDER

Husband facing second charge

Charles David Bader, estranged from his wife, was originally accused of aggravated battery in her beating.

By Patricia Walsh
STAFF WRITER

When a deputy found Cynthia Anne Bader lying on the ground Dec. 24 outside her sister's Englewood home, the mother of three was barely conscious and her face so "grossly disfigured" that she was unrecognizable.

At that time, according to the deputy's report, she uttered only five words: "Charles did this to me."

Her husband, Charles David Bader of St. Petersburg, was standing nearby. As the deputy turned to him, the report states, Bader threw himself down, crying and punching the ground with bloody, swollen hands. The deputy reported that Bader told him: "I'm sorry for what I did. I know it was wrong, but I could not stop myself. I just lost control."

The 6-foot-tall, 172-pound Bader was originally arrested on an aggravated battery charge.

But on Wednesday, state prosecutor Russell Kirshy filed a court document charging Bader with attempted second-degree murder.

According to the charging document, Bader tried to kill his 40-year-old wife "by repeatedly striking her in the head and face or by squeezing her neck with his hands." Bader is still charged with aggravated battery for causing permanent disability or disfigurement to his wife, Kirshy said.

Kirshy said the beating occurred at the home at 10200 block Oceanspray Blvd. at about 6 p.m., when Bader threw his wife down on the front lawn, choked her and repeatedly punched her in the face and head with closed fists. The attack occurred while the Baders' daughters, ages 9 and 10, and Charles Bader's 16-year-old son from a prior

Husband facing new accusation

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marriage were present, Kirshy said.

By the time the beating ended, Kirshy said, her eyes were bulging from their sockets and pieces of her cheeks and part of her nose had been pummeled from her body. Charles Bader beat his wife so hard that he broke one hand, the prosecutor said.

On Wednesday, Kirshy said, she was recuperating from 6½ hours of reconstructive surgery to rebuild an eye socket and facing the possibility that she may not regain sight in one eye.

The injuries were inflicted after the family returned home from a family dinner at the Outback Steakhouse in Port Charlotte, Kirshy said.

According to the arrest report, Deputy Rocco Casano found Cynthia Bader with major trauma to her face and neck after a neighbor called 911.

Charles Bader, 40, told deputies that he had been having marital problems and that he was unemployed and residing at 7800 block 10th Ave. in St. Petersburg.

He was released without bail after a first court appearance Dec. 25 before County Judge Kenton Haymans. He will be scheduled for arraignment after the case is reassigned to a judge in another county. That is being done to avoid any conflict or perception of impartiality arising because his father, Port Charlotte attorney Bob Bader, regularly appears before judges in the county.

Charles Bader was arrested Wednesday night in St. Petersburg after Circuit Judge Thomas Reese in Lee County issued an arrest warrant ordering him to be held on \$500,000 bail, Kirshy said.

Bader will be transferred to Charlotte County Jail from the Pinellas County Jail.