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**Memo:** AROUND SOUTH FLORIDA

## JUDGE WANTS LOST FILES ON 30-YEAR-OLD DEATH

*From Miami Herald staff reports*

Prosecutors on Tuesday were given another month to try to locate the files from a 30-year-old murder so a judge can sentence Maria Otero, who jumped bail after she was convicted in the 1976 case.

Otero, now 87, was convicted in 1976 of shooting a 13-year-old boy after he swam uninvited in her pool. She was released on bail after the trial, but never showed up for the sentencing.

Police caught her last month after receiving a tip she was in the Miami area. She was living in an apartment in Allapattah.

She had lived in Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and Guatemala before coming back to the continental United States about 20 years ago using her maiden name.

She was scheduled to be sentenced Tuesday, but Circuit Judge David Young postponed the hearing until June 21 to give the state attorney's office more time to search for the trial transcripts.

It's unclear if the judge can sentence her if the transcripts aren't located, her attorney, Manuel **Casabielle**, said.

### FORT LAUDERDALE WOMAN DIES ON FLIGHT FROM LAUDERDALE

A woman apparently died on a Delta Air Lines flight from Fort Lauderdale to Salt Lake City, a spokeswoman for the Salt Lake City International Airport confirmed Tuesday.

The woman was not named.

During the flight on Sunday, the woman's husband told flight attendants that his wife was unresponsive.

Paramedics met Delta Flight 503, which had 125 people aboard, when it landed, airport spokeswoman Barbara Gann said.

Paramedics moved the woman to the jetway, where they tried unsuccessfully to resuscitate her, Gann said.

The couple was en route to Reno, Nev., Gann said.

### CORAL SPRINGS

#### MURDER SENTENCING

#### POSTPONED TO JULY

Richard Knight will have to wait until July to learn whether he will die for stabbing his cousin's pregnant girlfriend and their young daughter to death in Coral Springs.

Six years ago, Knight murdered Odessia Stephens, 24, and her daughter, Hanessia Mullings, 4. A former cook, Knight had been living at the apartment of his cousin, Hans

Mullings, and Stephens for about six months when the couple told him to leave.

Last month, jurors convicted him of first-degree murder in both of the deaths. The defendant's DNA was found under Stephens' fingernails. Nothing was missing from the

apartment and there were no signs of forced entry.

Jurors will return to consider Knight's fate on July 24.

### MARGATE

#### POLICE SEEK MAN ACCUSED OF BATTERY

Police are searching for a Margate man who they say battered his wife and locked her in their apartment early Tuesday.

Vaughn Robert Frazier, 36, is wanted for aggravated battery, false imprisonment and victim tampering.

According to police, Frazier punched his wife, Lisa, in the back of the head. Lisa Frazier said her husband was intoxicated.

Then, to keep his wife from leaving or calling the police, Vaughn Frazier secured the front door of their apartment at 6600 Winfield Blvd. with rope and ripped the phone off

the wall, police said.

After her husband fell asleep, Lisa Frazier escaped to a neighbor's, where she called police. Police entered the apartment to find that Vaughn Frazier had fled, they said.

Vaughn Frazier also has two outstanding warrants for battery on a person older than 65 and a traffic-related offense, according to police. He is described as a white man,

five-foot-seven, 165 pounds, with brown hair and a distinctive shark tattoo on his neck.

Anyone with information about his whereabouts is asked to call the Margate Police Department at 954-972-7111 or Broward Crime Stoppers at 954-493-8477.

**Illustration:**photo: Maria Otero (a)