

Crime & Criminals - 1990-1999

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✓ Pipe-bomb victim still under heavy sedation

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SANTA CRUZ — The package bomb exploded in Jack Jacobson's hands more than two weeks ago, and he's still unconscious, Santa Cruz County District Attorney Art Danner said Monday.

The 50-year-old Santa Cruz divorce lawyer has been heavily sedated since the Dec. 23 bombing at his Eastside office, and doctors do not want to wake him up for fear that he will accidentally damage the delicate surgery performed on his hands, Danner said.

"He's been unconscious for two weeks and nobody has been able to

talk to him," the district attorney said. "Plus now there's another concern."

That concern is with Jacobson's small intestine — it was perforated by shrapnel — a wound that was described by physicians as being life threatening, Danner said.

Jacobson has had numerous surgeries on his hands, including skin grafts to his burned palms. Doctors were able to restore at least one finger to one hand, Danner said. The attorney also suffered wounds to his face.

But Stanford University Medical Center continues to refuse to confirm that Jacobson is there, even though numerous police officers

said just after the bombing that Jacobson had been taken by helicopter to Stanford.

Danner said they want to keep Jacobson's whereabouts a secret because the one or more people behind the gift-wrapped pipe bomb are still at large. Danner has said that Jacobson is under tight security.

Meanwhile, the district attorney still has not named a suspect or a possible suspect in the case, and he declined to comment on the 45-year-old man who Jacobson said he feared.

Court files of that man, who was married to Jacobson's live-in girlfriend, were sealed and then re-

opened last week by Santa Cruz County Municipal Court Judge Richard McAdams.

McAdams said Friday that he sealed the files after an agreement with the district attorney's office to allow investigators exclusive use of the voluminous files "without having to compete with the media." The judge also said that they were the only files sealed.

Danner declined to comment about the closed court documents or about McAdams' statements.

The Santa Cruz man named in the files had gone through a bitter divorce with Jacobson's girlfriend, losing his two children, his \$300,000 Scotts Valley home and

most of his \$500,000 inheritance, according to court records.

Jacobson and his girlfriend, who was his client in the divorce case, obtained a restraining order against the man saying they feared for their safety. And two years ago Jacobson swore in court that the

man "was stalking us."

But according to one of the man's attorneys, David Mannix of Klamath Falls, Ore., police interviewed his client for three hours the day after the bombing and then released him.