

Turturici shielded from suit

murder
Sentinel staff report

5-159?
SANTA CRUZ — A judge issued a partial stay Tuesday in a wrongful death lawsuit filed against David Turturici by the family of gunshot victim Rick Foster.

Superior Court Judge Samuel Stevens ruled that Turturici, 42, does not have to talk to the Fosters' attorneys until after his criminal trial is complete.

But the judge said that the lawsuit can go forward against Turturici's parents, Benny and Helen Turturici; his brother, Douglas Turturici; and his business partner, Edward Wehr.

All must provide depositions to the lawyers representing Foster's ex-wife, Theresa Foster; his mother, Lorelee Foster, and his two children ages, 6 and 8.

Judge Stevens made his ruling in response to a defense motion to delay the entire lawsuit until after Turturici's criminal trial.

The suit alleges that Turturici and his family should be held liable because Turturici negligently and maliciously took Foster's life and because Turturici's family helped him cover up the shooting.

But the District Attorney's Office charged Turturici with murder. In February 1997, a jury acquitted Turturici on murder charges and a charge of voluntary manslaughter, but the panel deadlocked on a lesser count of involuntary manslaughter.

The District Attorney's Office has since decided to retry Turturici on the involuntary manslaughter charge. His criminal trial is scheduled to begin next month.