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Secretaries file diaries in sex case

The alleged harasser, the medical examiner, was fired and sued the state.

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WILMINGTON — Two secretaries who worked for fired State Medical Examiner Ali Z. Hameli kept diaries chronicling his alleged sexual harassment, including his comments on their figures and questions about their sexual fantasies.

The diaries were filed Monday in U.S. District Court as part of a motion by two state officials who were sued by Hameli after he was fired last month from the job he had held almost 30 years.

"Today I had some very strange conversations with Doctor Hameli," begins a Dec. 8, 1992, diary entry. "He asked me, 'How is your sex life? ... He asked me if I fantasized about sex."

"He said he liked what I was wearing," wrote another secretary in her diary on Aug. 3, 1993. "He said it made my prominent parts more prominent."

Both women, who are not named in court records, said Hameli discussed his sexual fantasies about them and insisted that they learn Persian words for genitalia.

In an affidavit, Health and Social Services Secretary Carmen R. Nazario said investigators believed the former secretaries' allegations and not Hameli's assertion that their stories were part of a conspiracy prompted by a

third former employee.

Court records also reveal that Nazario offered Hameli a deal: He could resign as long as he indemnified the state for \$150,000 for potential damages as a result of his behavior, agreed to undergo counseling, and left state employment within 30 days.

Hameli offered to leave office in April and officially retire in June after using up accrued vacation time, court records show.

"I concluded ... that cause existed to terminate Hameli, given the high level of his position, the lack of any opportunity for on-site supervision, and the need for the chief medical examiner to serve as an appropriate role model for his office," Nazario said, according to court records.

On Monday, Hameli's lawyer, Sheldon N. Sandler, said he had told his client that if the charges became public knowledge, his reputation would be tarnished, no matter the outcome of the case.

Sandler said Hameli insisted on making the fight public because he is innocent.

Dr. Elizabeth Laposata, who quit as assistant medical examiner on Oct. 28, wrote in an affidavit that both former secretaries had talked with her about Hameli's alleged sexual harassment.

But Sandler said Laposata bears a grudge against Hameli and orchestrated the case against him.

One secretary quit in April 1993. The other filed with the state a formal charge of sexual harassment against Hameli last fall, when she quit after less than two months on the job, according to court records.