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Woman to face hearing in Bay Area fraud case

By Jim Schultz, Record Searchlight
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SAN FRANCISCO -- A Redding woman accused of fraud and embezzlement might soon be getting a preliminary hearing date, a spokeswoman for the San Francisco district attorney's office said Friday.

Kathleen Marie Bach, who was arrested last year, is accused of stealing about \$1.9 million from a trust fund and a San Francisco Bay area company that her murdered husband owned.

Bilen Mesfin, a public information officer with the San Francisco district attorney's office, said the 53-year-old Bach is due to appear in San Francisco Superior Court on July 8, when a preliminary hearing date may be scheduled.

Bach, a former San Mateo resident, was arrested on Dec. 21 at her Lewallen Court residence in Redding on a warrant from the San Francisco district attorney's office alleging fraud, grand theft and money laundering, Redding police have said.

Bach is accused of stealing money from her husband's San Francisco-based Western Plumbing and Heating Co. and a trust account that her husband oversaw.

She has pleaded not guilty.

Bach's 71-year-old husband, Victor, was found beaten to death Oct. 31, 2003, at his office in San Francisco's Mission District.

No suspects have been arrested or charged in connection with the murder, and a family member said earlier this week that a \$37,500 reward is being offered through the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and the Carole Sund-Carrington Foundation for information to help solve the slaying.

Reporter Jim Schultz can be reached at 225-8223 or at jschultz@redding.com.

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