

LOCAL

Settlement reached in 'daffodil shooting'

Monetary amount undisclosed

By Jennifer Aylsworth
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The \$1 million lawsuit that blossomed after what came to be called Mentor-on-the-Lake's "daffodil shooting" has been settled for an undisclosed amount of money.

The April 7, 1991, shooting earned the nickname because the argument that resulted in Patrick A. Dial being shot in the neck began after Dial's daughter picked flowers from his elderly neighbor's yard.

Dial, an imposing figure at 5-foot-8 and 220 pounds compared to his frail-looking neighbor, was wearing a daffodil in his pocket when his neighbor shot him with a .22-caliber revolver.

The neighbor, 76-year-old Robert L. Moore, was convicted May 26, 1992, of attempted murder and felonious assault and sentenced to at least seven years in prison.

However, he is free on bond while he awaits the outcome of his appeal.

Dial, 39, who spent several days in a hospital after the shooting, sued Moore, his wife Ruth, and their sons Earle and Harley. In court documents, Dial alleged that he suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, and his family endured emotional distress, as a result of the incident. He also is suing for lost wages from work.

Neither Dial, of 5669 S. Chagrin Drive, Mentor-on-the-Lake, nor his lawyer, R. Jack Clapp of Cleveland, could be reached Wednesday for comment. One of the Moores' lawyers, Albert L. Puroola, declined to comment on the case.

The Moores and Dials clashed on several occasions before the shooting incident, often in obscenity-laden disputes. Dial claimed Robert

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Moore once called him a "Cleveland hillbilly."

Trial testimony revealed Moore yelled at Dial's 3- and 5-year-old children after they picked daffodils from Moore's garden on April 7, 1991. Dial came to their aid, yelling back at Moore and frightening him. Moore went into his house, got his gun and shot Dial in the neck, telling police he feared Dial would kill him.

Moore, who breathed with the help of an oxygen machine during last year's trial, suffered a heart attack after the shooting. He has been barred from returning to his home.