

# Gun in Realtor's slaying perhaps bought illegally

## Cops probe whether it was bought illegally before Realtor killed

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The gun that a former boyfriend used to kill an Elmhurst real estate broker outside her office may have been purchased on the black market, police said Tuesday.

Police and federal investigators have traced the .38-caliber revolver used this month to kill Cindy Bischof to a former gun dealer in Crystal Lake. But the trail goes cold after 1991, police said.

Bischof, 43, of Arlington Heights was fatally shot March 7 in the parking lot of her Elmhurst workplace.

Her ex-boyfriend, Michael L. Giroux, 60, then shot himself.

Paperwork and information from the former gun dealer don't account for the weapon's ownership after 1991, said Elmhurst Police Chief Steve Neubauer. Investigators believe Giroux may have bought it illegally, he said.

After 1991, "we have no written record of who had the gun," Neubauer said. "We're assuming it somehow got onto the black market."

Police have said Giroux had no Illinois Firearm Owner's Identification card, known as a FOID, which is required to purchase a gun in the state.

Court records indicate he had received psychiatric or psychological treatment as a private patient at two north-west suburban hospitals, which could have made him ineligible to obtain a FOID.

Giroux had served time in jail for violating an order of protection Bischof had sought after they broke up and he vandalized her Arlington Heights home, causing as much as \$50,000 in damage. He was later charged twice with violating the protection order, and he pleaded guilty last fall to one charge.

A condition of Giroux's release on probation Nov. 15 was that he surrender any weapons and, if he had one, his FOID to the Arlington Heights Police Department. Police said he did not turn in any weapons under the court order.

The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is now handling the investigation of the gun's origins.

A bureau spokesman did not return calls seeking comment.

Elmhurst police are awaiting the results of ballistics tests being done by the Illinois State Police crime lab, which could determine whether the gun was used in other crimes, Neubauer said.

Friends of Bischof's had raised questions that Giroux might have taken the gun from the spouse of a relative, who is licensed to carry firearms as part of his job. But investigators said that all those firearms were accounted for early in the police investigation and that the gun Giroux used was not one of them.

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