

Bujak fails to get out of GPS requirement

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CANYON COUNTY — John Bujak's attorney asked a judge this week to remove the former Canyon County prosecutor's pre-trial condition that he wear a GPS ankle unit. Wednesday Magistrate Judge James Peart denied the request.

Bujak has arranged to be able to visit his parents in Coeur d'Alene for Christmas. He made those arrangements at his arraignment Dec. 13, the day he was arrested, Latah County Prosecutor Bill Thompson said. The Bujak case was handed over to Thompson because of a conflict of interest with Canyon County prosecutors.

Bujak's pre-trial conditions include a requirement to stay within Idaho's 3rd and 4th judicial districts, and Coeur d'Alene is outside those districts.

Wednesday Peart also maintained Nancy Callahan, an Emmett attorney, as Bujak's public defender for the criminal case. Callahan is also Bujak's public defender in his divorce case.

“Since there was already that relationship established, Judge Peart appointed Ms. Callahan to represent Mr. Bujak in the criminal case,” Thompson said.

Bujak told the Press-Tribune in an email Thursday that he had been advised not to comment on the case.

“On the advice of legal counsel I am letting the record speak for itself,” Bujak said in the email.

Bujak's attorney also asked Peart to remove Bujak's pre-trial condition that he turn over his passport because Bujak had lost his. The judge said Bujak could fill out a federal form for lost passports instead, Thompson said.

Bujak resigned Sept. 30 last year after he couldn't pay the county close to \$300,000 for resources used for a misdemeanor prosecution contract with the city of Nampa. Bujak has denied he owes the money. Bujak was arrested last week on two counts of felony grand theft and charged with embezzling \$236,000 from the county. A preliminary hearing for his criminal case is set for 9 a.m., Jan. 25, with Peart.