

Closing Arguments Heard in Britney Restraining Order Case

At issue is whether to forbid ex-manager Sam Lutfi and attorney Jon Eardley from contacting Spears

By Ken Lee | April 21, 2009 08:20 PM

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After three hours of closing arguments Tuesday, no ruling was made on whether to extend a restraining order against Britney Spears's ex-manager Sam Lutfi and attorney Jon Eardley.

The singer's father Jamie, who initially filed the request on Jan. 30, alleges that both men have continuously harassed his daughter, adding that Lutfi smuggled a cell phone to her at a hotel.

Samuel Ingham, a court-appointed lawyer for the pop star, 27, told Judge Aviva Bobb, "My client's situation has improved dramatically over the last 14 months. [A permanent restraining order against them] is in my client's best interest ... She has suffered emotional distress."

Bryan Freedman, a lawyer for Lutfi, 34, has denied his client committed any wrongdoing, saying Lutfi was merely responding to Spears's "cries for help," alleging she was seeking to overturn her father's legal control over her life. "Not one threat or act or violence was directed at Britney Spears," Freedman argued.

An attorney for Eardley, Roger Diamond, continuously questioned the validity of Jamie's conservatorship, and argued that Britney authorized Eardley to represent her, although a court has previously ruled that Spears "lacks the capacity" to hire her own lawyers.

The hearing will continue on April 28.



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