

▶ COURTS

Shooting dispute to end up in court

Parents say woman shot their son near school

By PHIL SCRUTON
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Although criminal charges will not be filed, Barbara Schneider continues to pursue civil action against Marta Mizrachi, saying the woman shot Schneider's 12-year-old son at point-blank range with a pellet gun March 24.

Mizrachi's attorney said Tuesday the false accusation has taken a toll on his client that she may redress in court.

Schneider and her husband have brought a

civil suit against Mizrachi alleging she shot Scott Schneider as he searched for his book bag on Omni Middle School property adjacent to Mizrachi's Woodfield Country club home.

Scott was not seriously injured.

Mizrachi has complained in the past about Omni students trespassing on her property. She refused to comment about the incident.

Mizrachi's attorney, Kenneth Lipman, said publicity surrounding the shooting has brought hardship to his client's family and that a countersuit is possible. "We'll continue to pursue (Mizrachi's) defense, then consider all the options," Lipman said.

The state attorney's decision not to pursue the criminal case is a relief to his client, Lipman

said. But he added that publicity surrounding the accusation has caused Mizrachi's neighbors to assume she is guilty and has seriously disturbed her life.

Meanwhile, the Schneiders are determined to win damages from Mizrachi in excess of \$15,000, although Scott recently said he is no longer certain who shot him.

The Schneiders' attorney, Adam Heffner of Boca Raton, said Mizrachi told him in a deposition her teen-age son admitted shooting Scott. But Barbara Schneider said her son's original statement that Marta Mizrachi shot him carries more weight, because after the incident he was influenced by rumors and suggestions from adults. "He's only a kid," she said. □