

## Novato woman guilty in stabbing over romantic rival

By Gary Klien

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A Novato beautician who stabbed her ex-lover after finding him with another woman pleaded guilty to reduced charges Wednesday.

Lilly Mai Ly, 49, admitted to a felony charge of inflicting corporal injury on a former cohabitant and a misdemeanor vandalism charge. In exchange for the guilty plea, prosecutors amended initial charges of assault with a deadly weapon, battery causing serious bodily injury and residential burglary.

Ly was arrested in August outside the Ignacio residence of her ex-boyfriend, a 61-year-old psychiatrist who works for the state prison system. Ly showed up to find the psychiatrist in bed with a 28-year-old woman.

"They had had a long-term relationship of 10 years or more," said Deputy District Attorney Al Charmatz, referring to Ly and the victim.

Ly stabbed the victim numerous times in the torso, leg and arm, then slashed tires on two cars at the residence, authorities said. The psychiatrist received 20 stitches at Marin General Hospital; the other woman was not injured.

Ly, who is free on bail, faces up to four years in prison and \$7,000 in fines when she is sentenced Dec. 17 before Judge Faye D'Opal.

Ly's defense attorney, Jon Rankin, said she felt "emotional abuse" because the victim repeatedly lied to her about whether he was seeing another woman.

"I think it's a fair disposition that recognizes her reduced culpability," Rankin said.