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Murder charge dismissed for man accused of killing twin

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NORFOLK — A judge threw out a murder charge Thursday against a man accused of killing his twin brother, saying he did not believe a jailhouse witness who claimed to have heard the man's confession.

Even before Judge Charles E. Poston finished speaking, Crist Ladicos hugged his attorney. His cousin wept and his family rejoiced over the news that the charge was gone.

Ladicos, 67, told police that he found his brother, John, in a pool of blood in his home on the 9500 block of 1st View St. on July 4, 2005. Ladicos had long been his brother's caretaker. John Ladicos was 65 when he died.

In his call to 911, in his statements to police, and in previous court hearings, Crist Ladicos repeatedly said his brother either stabbed himself or that someone killed him. He repeatedly denied killing his brother to police and in court. Later, while Ladicos was free on bail, he hung posters offering a reward to find his brother's killer.

In court Thursday, Michael Koulouris, wearing the black-and-white-striped jumpsuit of the Norfolk City Jail, testified that he met Ladicos last year while in a holding cell at the juvenile court, shortly after Ladicos was charged. They spoke in Greek to each other, Koulouris testified, and he encouraged Ladicos to tell him what happened. At first, Ladicos denied any part in his brother's death, Koulouris said.

Then Koulouris said he told Ladicos he could help if he knew the truth. That's when Ladicos said he and his brother had gotten in a fight about tenants who lived in the house, according to Koulouris. Ladicos told him he grabbed the knife away when his brother came at him, then stabbed him twice.

Andrew Protogyrou, Ladicos' attorney, grilled Koulouris. The inmate had tried repeatedly to hire Protogyrou for his own criminal cases and never mentioned Ladicos' confession. Koulouris is to be sentenced today for attempted robbery and has a felony escape charge pending. Koulouris said he expected nothing in return for his testimony, but Protogyrou asked him if he had bragged to others in the jail that his sentence would be cut in half, and that he "jumped on cases to get his time cut."

Additionally, Koulouris, 26, has been convicted of several felonies and has spent all but about a year of his life behind bars since he was 19.

Poston was not impressed.

"The court does not believe a word that man said," Poston said. "I don't know what happened that day, but there's no way I'm going to convict based on that man's testimony."

Ladicos frequently wiped his face and dabbed his eyes with his handkerchief during the testimony. At one point, he raised his brother's pictures and kissed them. He said all he wanted now was to go back to school to earn his master's degree. He hoped to become a substitute teacher.

"I was always taking care of John, for 10 years," Ladicos said. "If he was living again, I could take care of him another 10 years."



Crist Ladicos told police his twin brother either stabbed himself or someone else killed him.