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## Doctor remains free pending homicide appeal

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A Kentucky judge has allowed Christ Koulis, a former plastic surgeon convicted in Tennessee of criminally negligent homicide in the overdose death of his girlfriend, to remain free while his conviction is under appeal.

Koulis was sentenced to two years in prison for allegedly injecting Lesa Buchanan with the narcotic painkiller Oxycodone during a marathon sex weekend at her apartment in Franklin. Buchanan died July 4, 2005.

In 2003, Koulis pleaded guilty to dispensing a controlled substance to Buchanan and was sentenced to probation in Kentucky. The conviction in Tennessee led to him being charged with violation of his Kentucky probation. His attorney, David Raybin, said it could take 18 months for the Tennessee Court of Appeals to rule on whether to overturn the homicide conviction.

“There is no evidence that Dr. Koulis was legally responsible for this woman’s death,” Raybin said. “There is no evidence that he gave her any drugs.”

Jurors in the case were shown a video tape made by Koulis and Buchanan which shows the couple having sex and Buchanan holding gauze to her pubic area. Prosecutors said it’s proof that Koulis injected her with drugs.

If the appeal is unsuccessful, Koulis could be found guilty of violating his Kentucky probation and sentenced to serve time in confinement there, Raybin said.

Koulis has posted \$500,000 bail in Tennessee and \$100,000 bail in Kentucky