

# Woman tells court mother hasn't seen deposit money

By FANNIE SUNSHINE  
The Champion

A witness told Burlington court Thursday she began to express concern over the delivery of her furniture order from the Village Pine Shoppe in Campbellville after an acquaintance told her his relatives were "ripped off" by store workers.

Sabina Taylor testified in Burlington court in the ongoing fraud trial of Charles Currie, 43, of Campbellville. She told the court she and her mother visited the shop in July, 2000 and dealt with Mr. Currie.

She told the court her mother wrote out a cheque for \$2,000 as a down payment for the armoire she purchased. Ms Taylor said Mr. Currie promised a delivery date of two weeks.

"I thought it was wonderful but awfully quick because it was custom-made," she said.

She testified that three weeks later she phoned Mr. Currie and he told her more time was needed to complete the order but didn't provide a specific date.

"I was talking to a contractor who was doing work at my house about what was happening and he said oh no, not them. My parents got ripped off from them."

Ms Taylor said she went back to the shop in October and asked Mr.

Currie where the furniture was.

"He said to call his mother (Oriana Currie), but the (answering machine) mailbox was always full and I couldn't leave a message."

She told the court she faxed a letter to Ms Currie and told her she was coming down to the store to get her mother's deposit back.

"I was trying to get some action from them, some response. I was hoping for a phone call. A normal business would call to say (the delivery) is going to be delayed, but they never called."

Ms Taylor said she visited the shop in January and once again Mr. Currie told her to deal with Ms Currie.

Ms Taylor said her mother has yet to see a penny of her deposit.

Christine Sarte, branch manager of the CIBC in Milton, testified the bank received three returned cheques from the account of Sheri Duff (Mr. Currie's common-law wife) in September, 1999.

She said the account was overdrawn when the cheques were deposited and the bank closed the account the next month. The branch suffered a loss in excess of \$4,000, Ms Sarte told the court.

Defence lawyer Anthony Bryant asked Ms Sarte if Mr. Currie was a customer of the branch, to which she said no.

Andrew Snead, a merchant secu-

rity officer with Mastercard, testified Friday in Oakville court the credit card company suffered a loss when a credit note to Rita Ianarino was issued for \$1,460 after she failed to receive her furniture from the Village Pine Shoppe.

Ms Ianarino testified in June she never received her furniture from the Village Pine Shoppe and had to refund the cost of her purchase through Mastercard.

Mr. Bryant pointed out the business named on the Mastercard account was the Lumber Yard Village and was opened by Oriana Currie, not Charles Currie.

Sophie Nushis, an investigator with American Express, told the court the company charged back the \$2,700 to Peter Solomon's account after he failed to receive the furniture he had purchased from the furniture shop.

Mr. Solomon testified in June he never received his furniture from the shop and had to refund his money through American Express.

"American Express has never recovered the funds," she said.

Once again, Mr. Bryant pointed out the account holder was Oriana Currie, not Charles Currie.

Mr. Currie is charged with 25 counts of fraud under \$5,000 and one count of fraud over \$5,000.

The trial will continue Thursday in Oakville court.

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