

Judge to deny bond if Duffey caught

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BENTON — During an interview about her unserved subpoenas, former prosecutor and drug task force director Jean Duffey has shown she is avoiding authorities and will be held without bond when she is arrested, a circuit judge declared Monday.

Duffey was interviewed by KARK-TV, Channel 4, in Little Rock last week about a warrant issued Thursday for her arrest on failure to appear for court proceedings.

Portions of the interview were broadcast Thursday and Friday. Duffey has allegedly avoided service on a subpoena

in the Hot Spring County burglary trial of Tim Jensen, 21, of Malvern.

A hearing on Jensen's trial was held Monday in Benton before Circuit Judge John W. Cole of Sheridan (Grant County). The trial cannot proceed, defense attorney Larry Horton of Malvern argued, until Duffey is present to testify.

Jensen is a former informant for the 7th Judicial District Drug Task Force. Jensen claims that Duffey, who was also deputy prosecutor for the district, had promised him leniency while she headed the task force.

Duffey headed the task

force until Nov. 8, 1990, when she was fired after numerous financial irregularities came to light after a state audit and after she publicly argued with two board members.

Almost \$4,000 in task force money is still unaccounted for. Another subpoena for Duffey was issued by a Saline County grand jury for questioning on that issue, but no charges have resulted from that subpoena.

Cole delayed Jensen's trial until June 18. If Duffey is apprehended before that time, he ruled, there will be another hearing to possibly set a new date.

Cole then rescinded the
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warrant issued Thursday for Duffey, which would have allowed her release without bond, and issued a new one instructing authorities to hold Duffey until he can schedule a hearing in the Jensen affair.

The warrant was issued in Hot Spring County, where Jensen's trial was to take place. His first trial ended in a mistrial after a juror fainted, and the second was delayed after a hearing in which Horton played a tape recording of Duffey telling him, by telephone,

to do "every song and dance you can think of" to delay the trial. That, Cole ruled, demonstrated she was avoiding the subpoena.

Then Jensen skipped bond, but turned himself in later. This caused a further delay.

Issuing the failure to appear warrant through Hot Spring County puts the responsibility for finding Duffey upon Hot Spring County Sheriff Doyle Cook. Duffey once accused Cook in front of three witnesses of taking a sexual favor for a bribe after he refused to change his statement involving a federal civil rights lawsuit brought against Duffey by a Hot Springs woman.