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Assault charge against Mets pitcher Jeurys Familia is dismissed

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FORT LEE, N.J. – A criminal case against Mets pitcher Jeurys Familia stemming from an alleged domestic violence incident was dismissed today in Municipal Court.

Judge John R. DeSheplo said that he was entering a "Code 6," which means dismissal because of lack of prosecution, and that Familia's record would be expunged.

The prosecutor, Arthur Balsamo, told the judge that he had reviewed the case and had spoken with the alleged victim, Familia's wife, and that he was recommending that the case be dismissed. He also said that the arresting officer concurred.

Familia's attorney, Paul Brickfield, said they were happy that the case had been dismissed.

The simple assault charge stemmed from an alleged incident on Halloween where Familia – who is identified in court documents as Jeurys F. Mojica "caused bodily injury to another" person. Police said in documents that the incident appeared to be an act of domestic violence. Fort Lee police said in the complaint filed in Municipal Court that they had observed a scratch on the chest and a bruise on the right cheek of the victim, whose name was redacted. 911 tapes revealed that the victim had called Fort Lee police to report that Famalia was "drunk" and "going crazy" on the night of the alleged incident.

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In November, Familia [pledged not guilty](#) in his first appearance before DeSheplo.

As he arrived today, Familia walked in early dressed in a black blazer, grey turtleneck and jeans. He spoke quietly with his lawyer in the corner of the courtroom. His wife also arrived early.

[The Record was first to report](#) that Familia was arrested in connection to an alleged domestic violence incident.

At his first court appearance last month, Familia was advised by the judge that the case could proceed even if the victim did not cooperate with authorities.

Familia could still face a suspension from Major League Baseball in connection with the incident. Shortly before Familia's first court appearance Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said he expected the league to explore the possibility of a suspension after authorities conclude their investigation, according to ESPN New York.

"I think it is usually difficult for us to complete our investigation before the criminal process has run its course," Manfred said. "We have the luxury of not being on the field right now, and we're going to take advantage of that."

Familia was one of several athletes to appear in an anti-domestic-violence campaign by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence where the celebrities made videos that were posted on the campaign's website. Familia's video no longer appears on that site.

Wyrich writes for the Bergen County Record, part of the USA TODAY Network