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## Wife's family vows to sue after he admits smother

By **STEPHEN McFARLAND**

Daily News Staff Writer

The family of a woman whose husband now admits smothering her will file a wrongful-death suit in the latest twist in a long-running assisted-suicide saga.

Relatives of Myrna Lebov also will ask the state to bar George Delury of Manhattan from making any money with a book he is about to publish about the case, said Steven Mintz, the attorney for Lebov's family.

Delury, 63, an editor of the World Almanac, pleaded guilty in March 1996 to attempted manslaughter in Lebov's July 1995 death and served four months in jail.

He testified that Lebov wanted to die because she suffered from multiple sclerosis, a degenerative disease of the central nervous system, and that he had mixed her a fatal concoction of honey, water and prescription drugs.

But he writes in his soon-to-be-released book that when he saw his 52-year-old wife was still breathing, he suffocated her by placing a plastic bag over head — a detail he did not tell police or the court.

"We don't want Mr. Delury to profit from murdering her," Mintz said last night.

"I believe there was a gross miscarriage of justice," said Le-

bov's sister Beverly Sloane. "Six months in exchange for her life, and he got [two months off] for good behavior, is an abomination."

Despite Delury's admission, no further criminal charges can be brought against him. The principle of double jeopardy protects him from a second trial for the same crime.

So the family has decided to take the same route as relatives of the two victims in the O.J. Simpson case.

"On June 27, it is our intention to qualify Beverly Sloane's husband as administrator of Myrna Lebov's estate and file a wrongful-death action against George Delury in Manhattan Supreme Court," said Mintz, a partner in the Manhattan firm of Mintz & Gold.

He said the family also would move against Delury under the Son of Sam Law, which forbids criminals from profiting from their crimes by such methods as writing books about them.

Sloane said any proceeds from the legal actions would be used to memorialize Lebov, possibly by creating a support organization for families who suspect a relative is a victim of domestic abuse.