

Blagojevich indictment expected soon

by UPI

CHICAGO -- Federal prosecutors in Chicago said they would file documents Thursday in a "significant criminal matter," likely the indictment of former Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

Federal prosecutors faced a Tuesday deadline for indicting the ousted Illinois governor on a wide variety of charges, including an alleged scheme to sell the U.S. Senate seat vacated by President Barack Obama.

The U.S. attorney's office issued a statement saying it would "provide a court filing late this afternoon ... regarding a significant criminal matter."

The word came as Blagojevich vacationed with his family at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., the Chicago Tribune reported.

No court appearance was immediately scheduled.

Blagojevich was impeached by the Illinois House and removed from office by the Illinois Senate in January.

The indictment likely will include more details about the allegations against Blagojevich and former chief of staff John Harris regarding the corruption charges leveled against them in December, observers said. It also could include more defendants.

Known targets include Blagojevich's brother, Robert, who headed the former governor's campaign fund; Lon Monk, Blagojevich's one-time best friend and former chief of staff; Blagojevich's wife, Patricia, and Friends of Blagojevich, the ex-governor's campaign committee.

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