

Feds drop Florida 'Net prescription case

by UPI

MIAMI -- Federal prosecutors declined to say specifically why they dropped charges in a Miami trial in which jurors admitted to doing their own Internet research.

The judge dismissed the charges against the four defendants, who had been charged with illegally selling prescription drugs on the Internet and also agreed to a government motion to allow two other defendants to withdraw their earlier guilty pleas in the case.

A mistrial was declared last month after eight jurors admitted they had improperly carried out their own research on the subject during the seven-week trial. Jurors are prohibited from independent research because they might come across information not presented in the courtroom.

The Miami Herald said Wednesday that lawyers in the case said the prosecution's decision might have been influenced by the fact that the jury was deadlocked 10-2 in favor of acquittal.

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