

# Glendale News-Press

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erving the Glendale community since 1905

## Love may send him to jail — at age 92

Charles Barnes and Constance Driscoll got married seven weeks ago, but court papers say she wasn't competent at age 84. Now, he may be put behind bars.

By Donna Huffaker, *News-Press*

**D**OWNTOWN — From lovebird to jailbird? At age 92?

Charles Barnes said Tuesday he's ready for the slammer — if that's what comes from marrying his 84-year-old lover.

Barnes will stand — with the help of his walker — before Glendale Superior Court Judge Charles Stoll today, facing the

possibility of five days in jail and \$30,000 in court costs.

His crime, if it is one:

He moved his lover of eight years and friend for 50, Constance Driscoll, from a nursing home 500 miles away to a home in her native Glendale, said Barnes' attorney, Linda Paquette.

The move violated a court order that said only Driscoll's conservators — people who assumed legal responsibility for

her and her \$800,000 estate because of her short-term memory loss — are allowed to move her.

Barnes did not know the order included him, Paquette said.

And it's not the money the Glendale man is interested in, he insisted Tuesday. The property owner and landlord is worth more than \$1 million himself, Paquette said, and he signed papers saying he would

not inherit any of Driscoll's estate.

Co-conservator Stan Mandell, who did not return phone calls Tuesday, said in papers filed earlier this month in Los Angeles County Superior Court that Driscoll is incompetent to consent to marry Barnes.



Charles Barnes and Constance Driscoll have known each other 50 years and have been lovers for the past eight.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1997

25 CENTS

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## Charges dismissed against 92-year-old lover

■ Charles Barnes will not go to jail or have to pay \$46,000 fine. 'I want (them) to go about their business,' judge says of couple that eloped in September. Barnes can now visit Driscoll freely.

By Donna Huffaker, *News-Press*

**D**OWNTOWN — Maybe love will keep them together.

That or the recent dismissal of a contempt charge, the threat of five days in jail and \$46,000 in fines against 92-year-old Charles Barnes, the Glendale resi-

dent whose love for Constance Driscoll has snared international attention.

Once prevented from seeing his 84-year-old "honeybunch," with whom he eloped Sept. 9, Barnes now has unrestricted access to his wife inside her Pasadena nursing home, Glendale Superior Court Judge Charles Lee ruled in the Dec. 3 settlement conference.