

LAN YURKO'S PRISON SAGA TO END WITH RELEASE IN - Orlando Sentinel, The (FL) - January 9, 2005 - page B3 January 9, 2005 | Orlando Sentinel, The (FL) | Amy C. Rippel, Sentinel Staff Writer | Page B3

In about two months, Alan Yurko will walk out of prison a free man -- again.

Released from a Florida prison in August after winning a new trial in the 1999 death of his infant son, **Yurko** has spent the past four months incarcerated at an Ohio prison on a parole violation stemming from an aggravated burglary conviction dating to the 1980s.

On Thursday, the Ohio parole board decided that **Yurko** would be released on March 7, said his wife, Francine **Yurko**.

"Oh my gosh, I think we're more excited now than we were at the evidentiary hearing [when Alan **Yurko** was released from Florida prison] -- as silly as this sounds," Francine **Yurko** said. "We're talking about all the things we're going to do."

She said they are looking forward to starting a new life. The couple and Francine's 11-year-old daughter will move to Ohio this summer to be closer to family, she said.

**Yurko** was convicted in December 1989 in Ohio on four counts of aggravated burglary. He was sentenced to 10 to 25 years and served eight years. But he later left the state, which was a violation of his parole. Alan **Yurko** left Ohio to go to Florida to be with Francine when their son was born, she said.

Then he was arrested by Orange County deputies in April 1998 in the death of his son. He was charged with murder, convicted and sentenced to life in prison in April 1999. Investigators said it was a shaken-baby case.

Yurko and his many supporters maintained the baby died from a reaction to vaccinations and other causes.

In August, **Yurko** won a new trial following a weeklong hearing, but he pleaded no contest to manslaughter. He was then sentenced to time served and released after six years in prison.

Ohio officials took him into custody in early October for the old parole violation. **Yurko** faced the Ohio parole board in a closed hearing on Thursday, his wife said. He was sentenced to time served and "immediately released," she said.

"Bureaucracy being what it is, there is a standard 60-day period from the hearing decision to finalize the release process," she said in a written statement to **Yurko**'s supporters.

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