

BIG-MONEY HONEYYS



Newlyweds must forfeit \$\$ to reunite

By DENISE BUFFA

Russian newlyweds caught up in an "ecstasy" ring will have to give up \$121,629 — what they call wedding gifts and prosecutors call drug profits — if they want to get on with their life together, authorities said.

The Brooklyn husband and wife, who are also new parents, pleaded guilty to drug charges in exchange for leniency yesterday.

But Judge Neil Firetog warned them that their plea bargains won't stick unless they sign affidavits forfeiting nearly all of the cash found in their Borough Park home in a pre-dawn raid in March.

"Just as long as you sign the forfeiture agreement for money recovered," Firetog said.

Still, the husband, Dror Hershowitz, 25 — the suspected kingpin of a club-drug distribution ring who's been behind bars since the bust — seems reluctant to do so.

The couple's lawyer, Meir Moza, essentially told Dror's 23-year-old wife, Moran Hershowitz — who was nine months pregnant when arrested and gave birth to the couple's first child in jail — that her hubby won't be home anytime soon unless he gives up the cash.

"He's more concerned about the money than being in jail," Moza told Moran — who's been free on bail — after the pair

entered their pleas at Brooklyn Supreme Court.

The husband pleaded guilty to possession of at least a gram of ecstasy with intent to distribute in exchange for a year in jail — which means he could get out immediately because of the time he's already served while awaiting trial.

If he doesn't forfeit the money, Dror could face nearly 10 years behind bars, Moza emphasized.

"Dror doesn't understand. He thinks he's entitled to that money, and he's not," Moza told Moran in a courthouse hallway.

Moran pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor drug-possession charge in exchange for three years of probation.

The lawyer reminded her that the couple is getting back some of the money — about \$20,000 — because it came in the form of checks from wedding guests.

But he said guests who gave them cash would have to swear in affidavits it was for the wedding, in order for the couple to recover any money.

Dror and Moran were busted about 10 days after their wedding, attended by 300 guests.

Back then, Moran appeared in court with her belly bulging under a black jacket.

Yesterday, the couple's lawyer said the baby is fine as the new mother smiled proudly.

Moran Hershowitz awaits her husband's release, but he'll surrender \$121,629 in alleged drug profits. Chad Rachman