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I won't fight divorce, says wife accused of affair with student

She denies allegations, claims husband cheated on her and whipped her

■ By KHUSHWANT SINGH

A WOMAN teacher accused of having an affair with a former student from the time he was 16 yesterday agreed to give her husband a divorce.

Her spouse wants to end the marriage, saying she had "improper associations" with the boy which began in 1988 and continued on and off for the next 20 years.

The wife denies his allegations, claiming he whipped her and cheated with their Filipino maid.

Yesterday, the 54-year-old told the Family Court she will not contest the divorce proceedings. She is currently a teacher at a well-known girls' school, while her husband is the managing director of a company that deals in scientific equipment.

He says she met the student more than 20 years ago while she was working at a different school and their relationship continued until 2008.

When the hearing started in June, the husband initially said he wanted to divorce her on the grounds of adultery but

admitted in court that he did not have any photographic or video evidence. However, he said he did have proof that she was still corresponding with the former student, who is now a banker, as recently as three years ago. That was because he had installed a programme on his laptop that allowed him to check her e-mail messages by secretly capturing screenshots whenever she logged on.

The wife claimed her relationship with the banker - who is now 38 and married with three young children - was not improper.

Instead, she said her 47-year-old husband hit her at least 10 times, at one point attacking her with a whip and forc-

ing her to kneel for hours. She also claimed he had an "improper association" with their maid in 2005.

Court documents also showed she applied for a personal protection order in August 1998, and made two police reports against him in April and June 2009.

The couple cannot be named to protect the identities of their two sons, aged 20 and 17.

Yesterday, the court heard they have come to a settlement.

The wife's lawyer, Mr Koh Tien Hui, later told reporters she is quite happy the matter has been closed without the need for further litigation.

"She now wants to mend the rift with her two children and hopes for a reconciliation," he added.

The husband, who was in court with the sons, declined to comment.

A pre-trial conference will be held on Dec 15 for the couple to seek mediation to settle the custody of their children and division of matrimonial assets.

Not contesting the divorce will not put the wife at a disadvantage in these matters, a lawyer not involved in this case told The Straits Times.

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THE CASE

The man, 47, started divorce proceedings in 2009, alleging that his wife had rekindled an affair with her former student in 2008.

He claimed she started having romantic associations with him in 1988 when he was a 16-year-old student and she was his teacher.

She denied the allegations and accused him of having an affair with the family maid in 2005.