

Suit against comedian alleging rape settled

By Sandy Hodson
Staff Writer

Comedian Tommy Davidson has settled a civil lawsuit filed against him by an Augusta woman who claimed the former star of *In Living Color* raped her.

A confidential settlement was worked out between attorneys representing Mr. Davidson and a 31-year-old Augusta woman identified only as "Mary Doe" in legal papers. In Georgia, the state's rape shield law allows the woman to remain anonymous in public documents.

Attorney Joe Neal, who represents the woman, said Thursday that a settlement has been worked out but that he could not comment further. The terms of the agreement require confidentiality.

Mr. Davidson's attorney, Jim Ellington, said Thursday, "All I can tell you is the matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of both parties."

The lawsuit was filed in March in Richmond County Superior Court, but the case was transferred to U.S. District Court, which imposed a gag order.

In early February, Mr. Davidson was in town while performing at the Comedy House Theatre on Washington Road.

The original lawsuit alleged

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**Jim Ellington, attorney
for comedian
Tommy Davidson**

Mr. Davidson raped and sodomized the woman in the early-morning hours of Feb. 8 at an Augusta hotel.

The woman also accused Mr. Davidson of battery, kidnapping, false imprisonment and intentional infliction of emotional distress by forcing unprotected sexual contact on her.

She sought unspecified monetary damages for medical and mental injuries and suffering, loss of income, and loss of enjoyment of life.

She also had asked for punitive damages to punish and deter Mr. Davidson, and an order requiring him to submit to an HIV test.

Criminal charges have not been filed against Mr. Davidson in connection with the woman's allegations.