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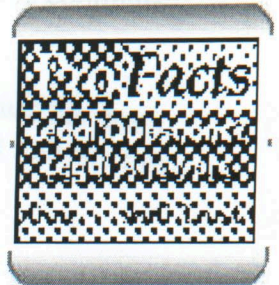
SOUTHAMPTON

Family sues police over son's death

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David Glowczenski died on his knees, beaten and electrified nine times with a police stun gun, his family and their attorney said Thursday. Calling the mentally ill man's February death at the hands of Southampton police officers "unnecessary and excessive," they plan to sue the village police for his wrongful death and Suffolk county agencies for allegedly covering it up.



Holding up photos of Glowczenski -- his face severely bruised and cut -- lawyer Frederick Brewington said the mentally ill man's death Feb. 4 while in Southampton village police custody was not an accident.

"It is clear that David Glowczenski suffered enormously, and died a terrible and horrible death at the hands of Southampton Village police," the Hempstead-based lawyer said at a news conference.

Police maintain that mace and a tazer were necessary to subdue the 35-year-old.

Glowczenski, a schizophrenic for more than 15 years, was having an episode that day when he left home carrying a bible and a book on the Grateful Dead, his favorite band. His family called police to pick him up, his sister Jean Griffin said, and an hour and a half later they were told he was dead.

The family has since had an independent autopsy done, Brewington said.

He said 18 stun gun marks were found on Glowczenski's back and thigh, indicating it was used nine times. In addition, large bruises spotted his entire body, including a 2 1/2-inch abrasion on a testicle. Scrapes on his knees show he was on them during the confrontation with police, Brewington said.

The notice of intent to sue names the village police department along with the village of Southampton, the Suffolk County police department and Suffolk County.

"David did not have to be treated like an animal and he did not have to be killed," Griffin said Thursday.

The village police department did not return calls Thursday and the village acknowledged receipt of the claim but had no further comment.

but she sees no basis for a lawsuit against the Suffolk police department or the county, because they weren't involved at the time of his death.

Brewington said both are responsible for covering up what happened by not releasing how Glowczenski died, or arresting the officers involved.

Det. Lt. Jack Fitzpatrick, commander of the Homicide Squad, said the investigation is continuing and police are awaiting results from the medical examiner's office.

"The preliminary autopsy indicated there were no injuries to the body that would cause his death. There was no blunt force trauma," Fitzpatrick said. "The witnesses at the scene don't indicate there was excessive force, no punches or kicks being used."