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Saginaw and Bay City News

## **Lawsuit in death of Saginaw man killed by police settled for \$510K**

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SAGINAW, MI — A federal lawsuit against the city of Saginaw and several of its police officers related to the fatal shooting of a man inside his home has reached a six-figured settlement.

U.S. District Judge David M. Lawson on Thursday, May 6, signed an order approving a settlement of \$510,000 in the suit of Mia Blaisdell versus the city, Saginaw Police Chief Robert M. Ruth, Sgt. Nathaniel Voelker, and officers Jordan Engelhart, Robert Adams, Kathryn Jeffers-Mercer and Vincent Jackson. Prior to signing that order, the judge dismissed Ruth and the other individuals named as defendants.

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Blaisdell is the aunt of Zane G. Blaisdell and the representative of his estate.

Lawson ordered \$330,413.89 be distributed to Mia Blaisdell, with the remaining \$179,586.11 going to attorneys with the Buckfire Law Firm in Southfield. Lawson further ordered the defendants to pay the sums no later than May 20.

With that, the judge further ordered the suit dismissed with prejudice, meaning it cannot be filed again.

Zane Blaisdell, 48, was shot and killed by Saginaw police officers who responded to a domestic violence call at his East Side home on Feb. 9, 2020. Blaisdell stabbed K9 unit Deebo in his head and was fatally shot by officers Engelhart and Adams.

Mia Blaisdell filed her suit on Aug. 3. In it, she alleged the officers “acted in concert with each other to cause the wrongful death of (Zane Blaisdell) and then conspired to distort and conceal the actual facts and circumstances regarding his death.” The suit went on to state Zane Blaisdell was “in the midst of a known mental health crisis” when officers threatened he would get bit by Deebo, only for the dog to then bite Blaisdell on both of his hands and his right thigh.

Zane Blaisdell tried defending himself “from an agonizingly painful and terrifying police dog assault and battery inside of his own home after the imminent threat to any person, the Defendants, or the public in general, had been extinguished,” the suit stated.



[Prosecutors on Feb. 27, 2020, ruled the shooting justified](#) and declined to issue any criminal charges against the officers involved.

The same day Judge Lawson approved the settlement, Officer Adams was named Officer of the Year by the Saginaw Police Department.

**Read more:**

[Aunt of Saginaw man killed by police files wrongful death lawsuit](#)

[Prosecutors rule police justified in fatal shooting of Saginaw man](#)

[Man killed by Saginaw officers after he stabbed K-9 had history of bipolar disorder, records show](#)



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