

Greensburg Daily News, Greensburg, IN

May 24, 2014

Mom plans to sue in son's jail death

By Boris Ladwig Daily News

Greensburg Daily News

---- — The mother of a Greensburg man who died after being incarcerated at Decatur County Jail plans to sue county officials in a wrongful death lawsuit.

M. Shane Satterfield, 38, died on the evening of March 17 after he stopped breathing at the jail.

According to court documents filed this month, his mother, Lynn Brewsaugh, also of Greensburg, has been appointed special administrator in her son's estate "for the sole purpose of pursuing a wrongful death claim."

In the filing, Brewsaugh alleges that her son's death "was caused by the willful, wanton and/or negligent actions of the Decatur County Sheriff's Department and its officers and agents. Other parties not yet identified may also be liable for (his) death."

Decatur County Sheriff Greg Allen said in March that jail personnel called an ambulance on the evening of March 17 because Satterfield was incoherent. Shortly after emergency responders arrived, Satterfield stopped breathing and was taken to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

A preliminary autopsy showed that Satterfield had an enlarged heart and liver disease and that he appeared to have died of natural causes. However, a final ruling was still pending the results of a toxicology report.

Brewsaugh has hired Indianapolis law firm Wagner Reese. The lawsuit had not been filed as of Friday, according to Decatur Superior Court officials.

Allen said Friday that he had received a letter from Brewsaugh's attorneys on Thursday to inform him of their intent. He said the case would be turned over to attorneys of the county's liability insurance carrier. Allen declined to comment on the case specifics.

Indiana State Police are handling the death investigation, which is standard procedure.

Satterfield was serving a 14-day sentence for drunk driving, Allen said. According to Satterfield's Facebook page, he liked motorsports, the TV show "Big Bang Theory" and musicians James Taylor, the Charlie Daniels Band and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. According to his obituary, he also loved his dog, Moxie.

Contact: Boris Ladwig 812-663-3111 x7401; boris.ladwig@greensburgdailynews.com