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## Lawsuit for death of teen in jail goes on

By COREY VAUGHN | THE DAILY IBERIAN

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A lawsuit filed against Iberia Parish government and the Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office in connection with the death of a 16-year-old will still going on despite the death of the mother who filed it.

Yulanda Thompson filed the lawsuit Aug. 26 in federal court “on behalf” of her son Daquentin Thompson, who hanged himself while being held in the jail in 2014. Yulanda Thompson died Dec. 7.

On Thursday, lawyers for the plaintiff, Elizabeth Cumming and Stephen Haedicke, submitted a motion for Tyree Thompson, Yulanda Thompson’s other son, to take her Yulanda Thompson’s place in the lawsuit. The motion was approved on Friday.

“Ms. Thompson’s claims along with her son, Daquentin Thompson, survive her death,” the document states.

Thompson was arrested in August 2014 and charged with possession of stolen things. He was taken to the Assumption Parish Youth Detention Center. On Sept. 3, 2014, a grand jury indicted the teenager on the charge of aggravated rape of a 36-year old woman and the case was transferred to adult court. Thompson was ordered into jail Sept. 5, 2014.

The lawsuit stated that Thompson “had a disability as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act, specifically, ADHD, depression, and suicidal ideation, and that the defendants failed to accommodate that disability, thereby discriminating against him in such a manner that he ultimately died.”

Besides the IPSO and parish, the lawsuit accuses Chief Deputy Richard Hazlewood, Warden Paul Scott, several other deputies, Emerald Healthcare Systems (“the entity IPSO contracted to deal with medical problems”) and several of its employees.

The lawsuit alleges the young Thompson should not have entered the adult jail in the first place since he was a minor. Thompson was “transferred to the Iberia Parish Jail, an adult facility with no space or programming appropriate to provide care for a minor child under the requirements of the Prison Rape Elimination Act.”

Iberia Parish Government subsequently filed a motion to dismiss themselves from the lawsuit on Nov. 17. The motion alleges because the parish funds the jail and the Sheriff’s Office operates the jail, they have no involvement with the events concerning Daquentin Thompson’s death.

Emerald Healthcare also filed a motion to dismiss claims made against the health care company on Dec. 7. Some of the reasons include allegations that Yulanda Thompson could not definitively prove that health care providers at the jail were deliberately indifferent to a suicidal Daquentin Thompson.

The company also alleges that the medical defendants Yulanda Thompson filed against are not public entities. Because they are private contractors and not public entities, the American Disabilities Act does not apply to them.

According to an answer from those representing members of the Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office filed on Oct. 12, all IPSO employees and officials named in the case denied the petition's original allegations. The document also asked that "there be judgment herein dismissing petitioner's Complaint and at her costs."

A hearing to dismiss Iberia Parish Government from the lawsuit is scheduled for Jan. 22. A hearing to dismiss Emerald Healthcare Services is set for Feb. 19.