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Posted: 3:15 p.m. Tuesday, May 28, 2013

Stabbing victim's mother, son awarded \$2.5 million

By Ciara O'Rourke

American-Statesman Staff

The mother and son of a man who was fatally stabbed in a confrontation in East Austin in 2011 were awarded about \$2.5 million in a lawsuit filed against the man once accused of killing him.

Mary Sedqy was seeking unspecified damages against Jose Enrique Valenzuela, who was at one point suspected in the September 2011 death of her son, 23-year-old Mohammed Sedqy-Abdalla.

Valenzuela was initially charged with murder in connection with the death but a Travis County grand jury declined to indict him in the case late that year.

Sedqy's lawsuit accused Valenzuela of being negligent and reckless with a knife that attorneys say was used to fatally stab Sedqy-Abdalla after he arrived at a home in East Austin to meet with his ex-girlfriend, Aspen Williams.

Valenzuela was also at the home, officials said, and the men got into a fight. A passer-by told police he saw Valenzuela stab Sedqy-Abdalla three times, according to the affidavit for his arrest.

Williams was not charged but Sedqy also sued her and her mother, Lola Williams, for negligence, according to court records.

Aspen Dunaway, Sedqy's attorney, said a confidential settlement was reached with the Williams women.

Sedqy, Sedqy-Abdalla's son and his estate were awarded more than \$2.5 million in Travis County district court Friday in the case against Valenzuela for mental anguish, loss of companionship, loss of inheritance and funeral expenses, among other damages, according to court records.

However, Dunaway said Valenzuela never responded to the lawsuit and that it's unlikely that Sedqy will receive any money in the case. The judgment "does show the seriousness of her loss," he said.

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• Posted by ava606

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• Posted by Cheat_To_Win at 4:16 p.m. May. 28, 2013
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The jury award could have been \$250 million instead of \$2.5 million, and the results for the plaintiff are the same because of the first rule of personal injury law:

You can't get blood from a turnip.

Aspen Dunaway must have had a lot of time to kill, no pun intended, to take this case to court: A. Big. Waste. Of. Everybody's. Time.



• Posted by keiffers at 4:22 p.m. May. 28, 2013
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Another one that is profiting off of the death of a loved one....before a loved one is dead they will say they are priceless, yet when they die they'll accept \$2.5 mil for their death....what a joke



• Posted by OldBlowhard at 5:37 p.m. May. 28, 2013
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Homeowner's insurance may have agreed to pay a nuisance value. I can't tell from the report.

4 Comment(s)
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