



Jonathan Rosenfeld

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Mother sues after ambulance blocked

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JOLIET -- A Joliet woman has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the city of Joliet alleging that her daughter died last year after a city ambulance couldn't leave the Evergreen Terrace apartment complex because it was blocked by police vehicles. Patricia Kent is seeking at least \$50,000 in damages, said **Jonathan Rosenfeld**, her Chicago-based lawyer. She filed the suit in December.

On Oct. 15, Nicole Robertson, 23, Kent's daughter, became ill while in her apartment at Evergreen Terrace, 366 N. Broadway, **Rosenfeld** said Wednesday. Robertson had asthma and other allergies, and she had an attack, he said.

A city of Joliet ambulance came to the scene to treat her, he said. Around the same time, Joliet police arrived at the complex for an unrelated reason or problem, **Rosenfeld** said. When the paramedics tried to take Robertson to the hospital, they couldn't, according to court documents.

"The defendant, city of Joliet, did park police vehicles so as to prevent said ambulance from moving and transporting (Robertson) to the hospital," according to court documents.

The lawsuit accuses the city of Joliet of acting willfully and wantonly because the police did not yield the right of way to the ambulance, according to court documents.

"(The police) parked police vehicles in a manner so as to prevent the ambulance from being able to move so that the plaintiff could be transported to an emergency care facility," according to court documents.

Additionally, the paramedics could not give Robertson the appropriate treatment while trapped at Evergreen Terrace, **Rosenfeld** said.

"They did not have the (correct) equipment, and as a result of the lack and the total chaos, she wound up passing," **Rosenfeld** said. "Based on the facts we have seen so far, it seems like a case of gross negligence."

Robertson had two young children who now are being raised by Kent.

Greg Smith, a lawyer who represents the city of Joliet, chose not to comment Tuesday on the case.

Reporter Stewart Warren can be reached at (815) 729-6068 or via e-mail at swarren@scn1.com.

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