

COUNTY OF OAKLAND
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

MICHAEL J. BOUCHARD



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SUCCESSFUL IN DEFENSE OF
WRONGFUL DEATH CLAIM AT THE OAKLAND COUNTY JAIL**

November 12, 2008 (Pontiac)- It would appear that four years of litigation between the Estate of Thomas Briggs and the Oakland County Sheriff's Office has come to an end. Within months of his death at the Oakland County Jail that occurred in June of 2004, Brigg's family hired the law firm of Fieger Fieger Kenney and Johnson, who commenced suit against the Sheriff's Office and its employees in federal and state court. The family wrongly claimed that Briggs was provided inadequate medical care at the Oakland County Jail. The federal court found that the lawsuit was without merit and summarily dismissed the claim brought on behalf of the family.

The remaining claim in state court was resolved in favor of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office by an Oakland County jury on November 4, 2008. After a two week trial, the jury determined that the Sheriff's Office and its employees were not responsible for Mr. Brigg's unfortunate death.

With respect to the court victory, Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard stated "Mr. Briggs death was very unfortunate and our hearts go out to his family. I have always been confident in our position and I am pleased that our Deputies and medical staff have been exonerated. Our staff is very well trained and when inmates in our custody are in need of medical treatment, they receive it. Mr. Briggs was no exception to this rule. The claims in this lawsuit were completely and totally false, and I am pleased the courts dismissed the claim. It is indeed unfortunate that the taxpayers have to pay to defend against these types of frivolous law suits."

For further information, please contact Undersheriff Mike McCabe at (248) 858-0146.