

## Family files claim in slaying of boy, 16, by lawmen

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The family of a 16-year-old boy shot and killed in his Sebastopol home by Sonoma County sheriff's deputies has filed a wrongful-death claim against the county.

The claim, a precursor to a lawsuit, says Jeremiah Chass was shot eight times by deputies who responded to a call from his home on the 1400 block of High School Road about 8:40 a.m. March 12.

Jeremiah, a junior at Analy High School, did not pose a threat to Deputies John Misita and Jim Ryan but instead was "in acute mental distress," said the claim filed Wednesday by Walnut Creek attorney Andrew Schwartz on behalf of the boy's parents, Mark and Yvette Chass, and 6-year-old brother, Isaiah.

"The parents called the Fire Department for help, and instead of getting help, the son was shot eight times," Schwartz said Friday.

The claim names Sonoma County Sheriff Bill Cogbill, Misita and Ryan.

In a statement, sheriff's officials expressed sympathy to the family and said, "While everyone can agree that Jeremiah Chass' death was tragic, the deputies placed their own lives at risk, and both were injured, in this chaotic, volatile, dangerous incident in order to help save the younger brother's life and to try to save Jeremiah's life."

Santa Rosa police, who investigated the shooting, have said the deputies were forced to shoot Jeremiah after they tried to grab a knife and that the youth continued to wave the weapon after being pepper-sprayed.

In a separate legal case, the father of a 17-year-old boy shot and killed by a Contra Costa County sheriff's deputy has filed a wrongful death lawsuit in federal court.

Shawn Day said his son, Steffan Day, was needlessly killed by sheriff's Deputy Joshua Patzer after what began as a routine traffic stop in Bay Point on Aug. 15.

The sheriff's office said Steffan was shot in the abdomen after he fled from a Ford Mustang that he had been driving erratically and fought with Patzer outside a Pittsburg home. A coroner's inquest concluded that Steffan was under the influence of methamphetamine.

The suit names Contra Costa County, Sheriff Warren Rupf and Patzer as defendants. Jimmy Lee, sheriff's spokesman, declined to comment Friday, citing the pending litigation.

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