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Lawsuit: Inmate died after water denied

The Associated Press

A federal lawsuit claims an inmate who died while on a work detail in Quitman County in June was denied water while picking up trash in the summer heat.

The family of 35-year-old Madison "Shane" Bland are suing Quitman County, the sheriff and 10 unidentified people.

The family's attorney, Todd Jeffreys of Cleveland, said an autopsy found dehydration as a possible factor in Bland's death.

The lawsuit, filed last week in U.S. District Court in north Mississippi, said Bland "begged" for water but was refused. He later collapsed and died.

Bland was in custody awaiting a court appearance on a probation violation after serving time for methamphetamine charges.

The sheriff did not immediately respond to a message.
