

WGN

\$975,000 settlement in fatal Chicago porch fall

Staff report

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The mother of a 24-year-old man who died as the result of porch fall on the North Side more than four years ago has been awarded \$975,000 in settlement of a wrongful death suit, her attorney said today.

Sean Heflin, then 24, fell from a second-floor porch railing at his girlfriend's apartment in the 1900 block of North Bissell Street in July 2007, said attorney Steven Levin. The Lombard man, who suffered a brain injury, died a little more than six months later.

His mother's lawsuit alleged that the porch railings were about 10 inches lower than the 42 inches required by the Chicago Building Code. The suit was brought against the apartment building's owner and manager, Stammich Management.

"Jane Heflin filed suit to focus attention on porch safety to avoid similar tragedies in the future," Levin said.

The settlement was approved by Cook County Circuit Court Judge Kathy Flanagan on Monday.

Stammich Management officials were not immediately available for comment.

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