

PRESS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

February 10, 2025

On Friday, February 7, 2025 U.S. District Court Judge Reed O'Connor dismissed claims against Tarrant County in the civil case filed by the family of Anthony Johnson, Jr. The lawsuit alleged unconstitutional use of force, failure to train employees, and failure to provide medical care among other things.

"Anyone can file a lawsuit and make unfounded claims against a person or organization," said Sheriff Waybourn. "Fortunately, our justice system requires evidence to support those allegations."

Judge O'Connor ruled the Johnson family attorneys failed to provide evidence to support allegations that Johnson's death was caused by systemic issues in the jail. They claimed overcrowding, unconstitutional and/or inadequate use of force policies and deliberate indifference to provide medical care were factors in Johnson, Jr's death.

The court dismissed those claims due to failure to identify specific county policies that were in violation of Johnson's constitutional rights. The Judge also found no evidence to suggest overcrowding or that detention officers failed to provide medical care.

He dismissed claims against six detention officers after ruling they were not responsible for Johnson's death through use of excessive force or indifference to providing him necessary medical care. The lawsuit specifically names several jailers who were not even present at the time of Johnson's death.

"I'm grateful that Judge O'Connor was able to see through the false and misleading accusations brought forth and dismiss the claims against our detention officers, myself and Tarrant County."

With that said, all loss of life is tragic, and we never want to see anyone die in the Tarrant County Jail.

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