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Pierce County sued over inmate suicide

Seattle Times staff

TACOMA — The family of a man who hanged himself in the Pierce County Jail is suing the county.

In the lawsuit filed last week in federal court in Tacoma, Ralph Close and Laura Larson of Clallam County say the Sheriff's Office failed to protect their son from himself.

The suit says 30-year-old James Robert Close, of Sequim, had no extra supervision although the arresting officer recommended a suicide watch.

The Tacoma News Tribune reports Close had been arrested for investigation of bank robbery.

Officers who booked him into jail wrote on the intake form that he had mental-health problems and had attempted suicide in the past. A few hours later he was found in his cell hanging from a bed sheet.

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