



By Julie Loncich

# Court order halts demolition of building in deadly Lowell fire

*Families concerned more evidence could be inside*



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LOWELL, Mass. —A temporary restraining order has been obtained by the families of Lowell fire victims seeking to delay the demolition of the burned apartment building, NewsCenter 5 has confirmed.

Seven people, including three children, died after a three-alarm fire tore through an apartment building on Branch Street early Thursday morning. Family members think there still could be evidence inside.

**Douglas Sheff**, a lawyer for the families, told The Lowell Sun that demolition of the building should be put off until the cause of the fire is determined.

"We have had many reports of non-functioning smoke detectors and electrical fires that occurred before this tragic fire," **Sheff** told The Sun. "How can we knock the building down without finding out what happened?"

City officials say there are no demolition plans set yet and a hearing on extending the restraining order will be held Thursday in Middlesex Superior Court.