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Attorneys for Odin Lloyd's mother seek to recover money Patriots may owe Hernandez



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Lawyers for the mother of the man who Aaron Hernandez was convicted of killing are seeking to recover millions of dollars the Patriots may owe Hernandez's estate.

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Attorneys for Odin Lloyd's mother, Ursula Ward, said Friday they intend to make a claim for up to \$6 million the team may owe Hernandez's family because Hernandez's lawyers could seek to erase his conviction under a Massachusetts legal principle called "abatement ab initio."

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Hernandez killed himself Wednesday morning while his murder conviction in the Lloyd case was still under appeal.

Martin Healy, chief legal counsel for the Massachusetts Bar Association, told CNN that the principle holds that it is unfair to the defendant and his or her family to let a conviction stand before all appeals were exhausted.

Ward previously filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Hernandez in her son's killing. Attorney Doug Sheff said courts found Hernandez to be responsible for Lloyd's death months ago. Now, the legal team is targeting the possible money owed by the Patriots as damages.

"We want everyone to know that right now, there is an order in effect in this case that mandates that no such payments will or can be made until the court is advised, until counsel

are notified, until we know about it, so that we have an opportunity to intercede and to make claim for that money, and that's exactly what we intend to do," Sheff said.

Attorneys also placed an attachment on Hernandez's 5,800-square-foot, five-bedroom, seven-bathroom house he bought near Gillette Stadium for \$1.3 million as part of their civil lawsuit against Hernandez.

"And now our case against Mr. Hernandez will simply become a case against his estate, and we hope and expect to recover those moneys just described, as well as any other assets, such as the house that we have attached, such as the Hummer we have attached, sold, and put those moneys in the hand of the court, and any other assets available for Ursula Ward and her deserving family," Sheff said.

Sheff also issued a challenge to the Patriots, asking that they voluntarily pay out families of Hernandez's victims.

"We urge the New England Patriots to work with the player's association to voluntarily make these payments of little consequence to the team, of tremendous assistance to these struggling, deserving families who are hurting, like Ursula's. That would be the best thing to do. That would be the right thing to do. And that would make the Patriots Ursula Ward's champion," Sheff said.

Lloyd, a semi-pro football player, was shot and killed in 2013. Hernandez was arrested days later and released by the Patriots.

"Odin was a supporting member of that household, and (Ward) lost that. It's twice as hard for her. She struggles to make it happen," Sheff said.

If awarded money in the suit, Ward said she establish a college scholarship.

"(The money) would help others," Ward said.

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