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Watch: Ursula Ward recalls 'tremendous loss' of son Odin Lloyd days after Aaron Hernandez's suicide

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Ursula Ward.jpg

Ursula Ward, right, mother of Aaron Hernandez's murder victim, Odin Lloyd, looks on as her attorney, Douglas Sheff, talks about Ward's civil case against the former NFL football star during a news



conference at
Sheff's office,
Wednesday,
in Boston.
Hernandez
was
convicted
and sentence
to life last
week for
Lloyd's
murder in
2013.
*(Stephan
Savoia /
Associated
Press)*

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By Melissa Hanson, mhanson@masslive.com

Ursula Ward says she still feels justice was served for the 2013 murder of her son, Odin Lloyd, because a jury convicted his former friend Aaron Hernandez of the crime.

So even though that conviction is legally overturned because Hernandez's suicide came before his appeal process could be completed, Ward says knowing that a jury found him guilty is enough for her.



A legal doctrine in Massachusetts called abatement ab initio rules that if someone dies after a conviction but before the completion of their appeal, that person's legal records in that matter are wiped clean.

Hernandez, a former New England Patriots football star, was found dead in his jail cell at 3:05 a.m. Wednesday at the Souza Baranowski Correctional Facility in Shirley.

But Ward and her attorney Doug Sheff plan to make an appeal for any money the New England Patriots pay to Hernandez's estate if that conviction is overturned.

"It's not about the civil case. It's about my son, Odin Llyod," Ward said standing next to Sheff at a press conference Friday. "It's about families who lost loved ones. It's about justice."

Odin Lloyd's Family Press Conference
Posted by WGME CBS 13 News, Portl...
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Ward did not want to speak directly about Hernandez during the conference, which was streamed live by WCVB. But she did talk about the loss of her son and how



any money received in that civil claim would go a scholarship in Lloyd's memory.

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"I lost the love of my life," she said, noting that she will never have the chance to see her son again or hear him tell her that she will have a grandson or granddaughter.

"All that was wiped away from me when he was 27 years old," she said, composed but her voice heavy with emotion.

The news of Hernandez's suicide has brought memories of her son's murder back to the surface.

"It has, especially when there's evidence that is showing through the media of what transpired in the courtroom, that opened up old wounds for me especially as a mother," she said, stopping for a moment to reflect. "You would never know and you would never understand unless you are in that boat of tremendous loss."



Ward said that one of the main reasons she spoke out was because there are many murders that do not receive the media attention that her son's did. She wants to make sure she can be a voice for those families, too.

Even if she wins her civil case, "there's no amount of money in the world that can get Odin back," she said.



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