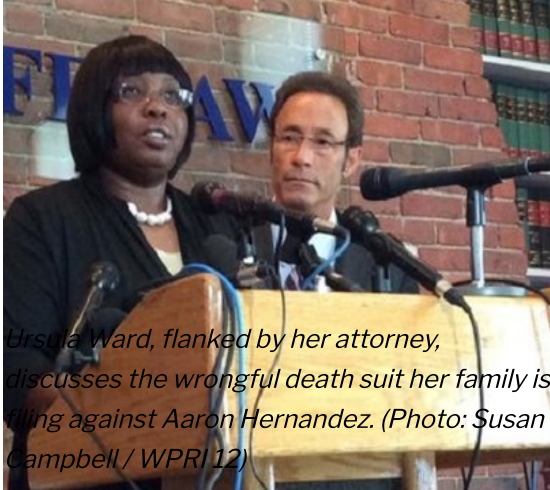


# Ward lawyer: We will call Hernandez to stand in civil case

**By:** Courtney Caligiuri

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*Ursula Ward, flanked by her attorney, discusses the wrongful death suit her family is filing against Aaron Hernandez. (Photo: Susan Campbell / WPRI 12)*

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Courtney Caligiuri; with reporting by Susan Campbell - (WPRI) -- One week after a jury convicted Aaron Hernandez in the murder of Odin Lloyd, Lloyd's mother and her lawyers announced the details of a wrongful death suit filed against the former Patriots player.

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During a news conference on Wednesday, attorney Doug Sheff promised to call Hernandez to the stand if the civil suit proceeds to trial.

"He will no longer be able to hide behind any sort of fifth amendment rights against self incrimination because he is already convicted of the crime," Sheff said. "And when we do call him, Ursula Ward will be by our side to look him in the eye."

Ursula Ward never missed a day of the trial for her son's killer. She wept in the front row of the courtroom when Hernandez was convicted of first degree murder for the execution style killing of Lloyd.

"My son Odin was the most precious gift in my life," she said. "Odin was a young man who never took life for granted. Odin always said 'Ma, if you have life, you smile.'"

And now Ward wants answers. "She wants to ask what happened, very simple. What happened, and the next question ought to be why," Sheff said.

Hernandez was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. He's also facing murder charges and civil suits for the shooting deaths of Daniel de Abreu and Safiro Furtado.

As Eyewitness News has previously reported, each civil suit asks for \$6 million in damages.

Hernandez had just signed a \$40 million contract extension with the New England Patriots prior to Lloyd's murder. He was released from the team immediately after his arrest.

Sheff says it has never been about money for Ward and her family -- but there is money on the line.

"I'm not confident he has money but he sure has received a lot over his career -- and we're curious to where it might be," Sheff said. "If any money is owed to Mr. Hernandez from the Patriots, that money should also be secured for the benefit of Odin Lloyd's family."

*Annie Shalvey contributed to this report.*

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