

Neb. College Seeks Dismissal Of Mother's Lawsuit

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Peru State College and state and local officials have asked a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit in which a mother blames them in the disappearance of her daughter.

LaTanya Thomas filed the lawsuit accusing the college and officials of neglecting to protect her daughter, 19-year-old student Tyler "Ty" Thomas, from fellow student Joshua Keadle, who is serving time in a Nebraska prison for sexual assault in a separate case.

Tyler Thomas has not been seen since Dec. 2, 2010. Investigators say Keadle told them he and Thomas had sex that night at a boat dock in Peru on the Missouri River.

Keadle told investigators they later argued and Thomas threatened to tell authorities that he had raped her. Keadle said he returned to his dorm room and took a shower to wash off any physical evidence of their encounter, according to court documents filed by Nemaha County Sheriff's officials.

Officials searched the river and the area but didn't find a body.

Keadle, 31, has not been charged in Thomas' disappearance, but he is serving a 15- to 20-year prison sentence for sexually assaulting a 15-year-old girl in 2008 while he was a college student in Dodge County.

Keadle also was accused of sexually assaulting a Peru State College student in 2010, but prosecutors dropped the charges, saying it would have been difficult to secure a conviction.

LaTanya Thomas' lawsuit says her daughter should have been protected from Keadle. The lawsuit seeks more than \$1,600 to cover the repayment of student loans that Thomas incurred, as well as unspecified damages for the family's pain and suffering.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* reported Monday that the dismissal motion says officials couldn't foresee that placing Keadle and Thomas in the same dormitory put the young woman at risk.

"At most, what may or may not have been brought about by Keadle and Thomas being placed in the same dormitory is an opportunity for defendant Keadle to meet Tyler Thomas, but nothing more," the motion says.



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