



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Federal Lawsuit Dismissed: Counsel of Sheriff Schmidt Counters Misinformation

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the dismissal of a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by Selepri Amachree against Dodge County, Sheriff Dale Schmidt, Investigator Robert Neuman, as well as several state and federal officials, according to a ruling issued April 21, 2023. The deadline for any further appeal of this matter has now expired.

Mr. Amachree, a Liberian immigrant, sued Dodge County officials seeking \$5 million in damages after U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement agents detained him in 2017. The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin previously issued an order on March 11, 2022, dismissing a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by Mr. Amachree. The recent ruling from the Seventh Circuit Court upheld that dismissal.

This case has been dismissed and the active litigation is now over, however, there remains considerable misinformation in the public eye. Dodge County residents are entitled to know the facts that the Dodge County Sheriff's Office and the Dodge County District Attorney's Office were acting in the best interest of our citizens and inmates protecting them from an individual with a troubling past.

Lead counsel for Dodge County, Attorney Samuel Hall Jr., provided the following summary of key facts related to this case in August 2022. Because of rampant untruths, we are sharing this information again to assist the public in understanding the issues.

- In late 2016, Mr. Amachree contacted the Dodge County Sheriff's Office requesting the privilege of professional visitation access in the Dodge County Jail. This enhanced access is often provided to attorneys and other professionals who require confidential communications.
- In evaluating the request for professional visitor access, Sheriff Schmidt directed that a background investigation of Mr. Amachree be conducted by a current employee who conducts background investigations for similar requests and prospective new hires.
- The background investigation revealed and confirmed an extensive and disturbing criminal history which included the following as pulled directly from the background investigation:

- “I briefly spoke with Sgt May (Macomb Police Department, Illinois) who attempted to locate past police reports/complaints regarding Amachree and subsequently advised me of at least six (6) complaints which had been filed against Selepri Amachree alleging that he had entered several residences through unlocked doors and had approached women who had been sleeping and began touching their feet.”
- “Sgt May did make contact with retired Detective Mike Brady, formerly with the Macomb Police Department who apparently was familiar with Amachree. Brady stated he recalled some of the incidents alleging that Amachree had entered residences and touched women’s feet and took female underwear.”
- Mr. Amachree claims that the investigation confused him with his brother, however, the investigation clearly shows that Mr. Amachree used his brother’s identity as an alias to avoid arrest.
- The investigation revealed a letter that was sent to the Dodge County Jail in which Selepri Amachree wanted to get a female inmate into treatment. The email indicates to the inmate that he would be “giving her the foot rub he had promised.”
- During the course of the investigation, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) informed the sheriff’s office of an active Final Order for Removal. This bars the individual from returning to the U.S. for a period of years, or in some cases permanently.
- Amachree was subject to federal jurisdiction since federal law enforcement determined that he was an alien who was removable for committing an aggravated felony.
- Based on the active and open Final Order for Removal, federal law enforcement advised the sheriff’s office that they intended to take Mr. Amachree into federal custody.
- On February 24, 2017, after repeated voluntary visits by Mr. Amachree to the Dodge County Sheriff’s Office requesting a meeting to discuss his background, Mr. Amachree was invited to a meeting at the Dodge County Sheriff’s Office to discuss the results of the background investigation. Sheriff Schmidt had no choice but to deny access to Mr. Amachree as a professional visitor in the jail. Immediately following that meeting, ICE law enforcement agents placed Mr. Amachree into federal custody.
- Dodge County has long maintained a contract with the federal government to house federal detainees. Mr. Amachree was held in the Dodge County Jail in federal custody, as his immigration case progressed in the federal courts. During that period, Mr. Amachree was a federal inmate, exclusively at the direction of the federal government.
- At the conclusion of the immigration litigation, Mr. Amachree was released from the Dodge County Jail at the direction of federal law enforcement.

The listed facts provided by our counsel only scratch the surface of correcting the misinformation that was presented to the community. As you can understand, during civil litigation, it is always best practice to withhold comment until the case concludes to maintain the integrity of the civil proceedings. By doing so, we protect the interests of not only the sheriff’s office but also the taxpayers of Dodge County.

Questions may be directed to Sheriff Dale J. Schmidt

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