



Lincoln County

Courthouse, Room 110
225 W. Olive Street
Newport, Oregon 97365
(541) 265-4100
FAX (541) 265-4176

Media Release

November 14, 2017 – Lincoln County, OR

Lincoln County has reached a \$2.85-million, wrongful-death settlement with the family of Bradley Thomas. Mr. Thomas died of dehydration while in custody at the Lincoln County Jail in 2015. Lincoln County Sheriff's Office sent their sincere condolences to Mr. Thomas' family. The County took immediate steps following Mr. Thomas' death to provide staff with additional training. Lincoln County has embraced the Stepping Up Initiative, a national program, which works to reduce the number of individuals with mental illness in local jails. Sadly, Mr. Thomas suffered from a diagnosed mental illness and had just been committed to the Oregon State Hospital one day prior to his death; he remained in custody awaiting a bed at the medical facility. The County is taking the tragic death of Mr. Thomas very seriously and will continue to enhance training for all staff in an effort to greatly reduce the risk of this occurring again.

For more information:

Wayne Belmont, Legal Counsel
Lincoln County Counsel's Office
225 West Olive St, Room 110
Newport, OR 97365
541-265-4108 - phone
541-265-4176 – fax

Stepping Up initiative:

<http://www.co.lincoln.or.us/boc/page/stepping-initiative>