



Lawsuits Filed Against Apartment Complex For Pond Deaths

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COLUMBUS, Ohio - The families of two drowning victims filed two lawsuits on Friday against Hartford at the Lake apartment complex.

The lawsuits describe how more than an hour passed before 5-year-old Elijah Walker was pulled from the freezing waters of the icy pond at Hartford at the Lake apartments in February. The complex is located at 2400 Shore Boulevard in Columbus.

James Jenkins rushed into the water to try to save Elijah when by-standers called for help. Jenkins, 30, held the boy up until the cold water overtook him.

Jenkins died at the scene. Elijah was taken the hospital and put on life-support, but died three days later.

The families' lawsuits claim the apartment complex failed to put safety measures, like a fence or barrier, in place. It also claims the apartment complex failed to warn residents of the dangerous conditions of the pond.

James Jenkins' mother said precautions could have prevented the deaths.

There have been a total of six deaths at the same pond, dating from 1998 to February 2013.

The owners of Harford on the Lake did not respond to requests for comment.

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