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## Lawsuit filed in Tate Funeral Services case

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**BLADE STAFF**

The family of a Toledo man whose body was recovered by authorities investigating Tate Funeral Services filed a lawsuit against the funeral home's director.

The wife and daughters of Thomas Fred Gaston, who died May 17 at age 55, filed the case in Lucas County court against the funeral home's director Fred. O. Tate Jr.

The family believes Mr. Gaston's remains had not been embalmed or properly refrigerated, according to court records.

Acting on a complaint, state authorities and Toledo police removed 11 bodies on May 29 from a street in Toledo. The bodies of 10 adults and an infant born prematurely were taken to the Lucas County morgue.

During his funeral on May 26, family members noticed that his body appeared to be heavily bloated and surrounded by a dark liquid, the court filing said. The family had arranged to have his body cremated, but the funeral home said it was not possible. On May 30, the coroner's office notified Mr. Gaston's family that his body was among the bodies found.

On June 2, the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors voted to suspend Mr. Tate's license for 90 days.

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