

Settlement Approved in Local Abuse Death

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) - Kansas officials have approved the state's \$100,000 share of a \$412,000 settlement Friday in a federal lawsuit over the death of a 4-year-old Hiawatha boy.

The State Finance Council agreed Friday to pay the money to Naomi Boone, the mother of the late Mekhi Boone. The boy's father, Lee Davis, is serving nearly 20 years for second-degree murder in the boy's 2013 beating death. Naomi Boone has contended that one of the state's foster care contractors placed the child with Davis while aware that he had a history of domestic violence.

Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, a Topeka Democrat, says the state is paying the money because it had an obligation to protect the child. Gov. Sam Brownback says TFI Family Services Inc. will pay \$312,000.

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