

## Koulis' death may mean previous conviction dismissed



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NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Almost three years ago, a Franklin jury found former plastic surgeon Christ Koulis guilty of contributing to the death of his model girlfriend, Lesa Buchanan.

Christ Koulis was found guilty of criminally negligent homicide in September 2007.



He was sentenced to two years in jail and ordered to pay a fine.

Koulis, however, never served a day behind bars because his case was going through an appeals process.

The process was still ongoing when he passed away in a Chicago hospital on Friday.

Nashville attorney David Raybin served as Koulis' attorney and is now asking the court to dismiss his client's conviction based on a special type of law.

"The government had every right to chase after Christ Koulis while he was alive, but they shouldn't pursue him to the grave," he said.

Raybin filed a motion known as "abatement by death" with the criminal court of appeals Monday morning, asking that the conviction to be dismissed.

"I'm greatly saddened that he died. It's horrible for his family, but I think he should not rest in his grave being a convicted felon when the law allows a remedy like this," he explained. "Until the appeals have been exhausted, if you die while the appeals are pending, then the conviction evaporates as a matter of law."

If the court of appeals rules in favor of Raybin, then it would be as if Koulis had never been convicted of criminally negligent homicide in Buchanan's death.

The state attorney general's office declined to comment on camera about the motion and said they are reviewing the filing and will decide the next step from there.

The coroner's office in Chicago told News 2 autopsy results on how Koulis died will not be available for six to eight weeks.

