

Davidson inmate settles lawsuit over prosthetic leg

Jail held medical device almost year

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The prison inmate whose prosthetic leg was held by the Davidson County Sheriff's Office for nearly a year has settled his lawsuit with the city for \$5,000.

Jerry Ray Brock, who is nearing the end of a burglary sentence, got his prosthetic back after a story ran in *The Tennessean* about his lawsuit. He had not received any response from multiple letters.

He filed the lawsuit seeking to get back the medical device after a sheriff's deputy refused to let him take it with him when he was transferred to state custody.

David Raybin, who assisted Brock with the suit, said Brock agreed to take the settlement in hopes that the money would give him a fresh start.

"He promised he would use the money in an appropriate fashion to live a good life and learn from this," said Raybin, who worked on the case without charge. "I figured that was a reasonable thing to do."

Brock has spent most of the last 20 years in and out of jail for burglary and drug charges. He lost a leg 30 years ago as a young man, trying to hop onto a moving train.

He got a newer prosthetic while in a Georgia prison, and he was carrying it with him when he was extradited by Tennessee to finish a burglary charge here. He was briefly held in the Davidson County jail, and he checked his cane and one of his prosthetic legs into property. He had put on some weight recently, and the sleeve of the newer leg was too tight. He hoped to get back into the stronger leg in Tennessee, but he was not allowed to bring it with him to state prison.

Sheriff Daron Hall said in a statement that in agreement with Metro's legal department, they settled feeling it was the best solution without indicating they were at fault. "The sheriff's office commits to improving the process in any way we can," Hall said. "Given the fact that litigation was pending, we were unable to interview inmate Brock regarding this incident ... We will arrange a prison visit with Mr. Brock to assist in figuring out exactly what happened."