

# State settles with ex-inmate

▪ A Grove man will get \$50,000 for a leg injury he says was improperly treated.

**BY DAVID HARPER**

World Staff Writer

A federal judge on Thursday approved a \$50,000 settlement in a case filed by a Grove man who claimed that he sustained a permanent injury to his right leg after not being treated properly while in the custody of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

U.S. District Judge Gregory Frizzell wrote Thursday that the agreement was a “fair and reasonable” resolution of the lawsuit filed by Corey Lee Davidson in Tulsa on March 31, 2009.

Davidson, 29, alleged that early in March 2008 — while he was imprisoned at the Jackie Brannon Correctional Center in McAlester — he developed compartment syndrome in his right leg.

The malady is described in the complaint as an acute

medical condition in which increased pressure within a confined space in the body impairs blood flow to tissue. It is a “well and easily recognized emergency condition in the medical community,” according to the lawsuit.

Though Davidson’s condition was diagnosed early on, he alleged in the complaint that “deliberate indifference” was displayed and that proper treatment was not provided to Davidson in a timely fashion.

By the time Davidson was finally referred to the University of Oklahoma Medical Center, Davidson had already sustained permanent injury, the lawsuit alleged.

Specifically, the lawsuit says that Davidson has sustained a neurological injury known as “foot drop syndrome” and has to use a leg brace to walk.

Davidson’s attorney Douglas Stall said Thursday that his client is “pretty significantly hampered” due to his condition and that part of the money will go toward a much-needed new leg brace for Davidson.

The Oklahoma Department

of Corrections website shows that Davidson was released from custody in late August 2008. It shows he had served time for Delaware County offenses involving drugs, second-degree burglary and child endangerment.

Stall said that Davidson is a “nice young man” who made some mistakes earlier in life. He said Davidson has a job, although he said the leg injury has prevented Davidson from getting work in his chosen field of auto maintenance.

The agreement was reached as a result of a settlement conference held before U.S. Magistrate Paul Cleary on April 28. Papers specifying the amount were filed early Thursday morning and Frizzell signed off on the settlement later in the day.

Charlie Price, spokesman for the Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson, said Thursday: “It was our legal judgment that entering the settlement agreement was in the best interests of the state.”

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**David Harper 581-8359**

david.harper@tulsaworld.com