

# Lawsuit accuses correctional officers in Marion of brutally beating inmate to death

by WCYB

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ABINGDON, Va. (WCYB) — A federal civil lawsuit accuses correctional officers with the Marion Correctional Treatment Center of brutally beating an inmate to death in February 2022.

The lawsuit alleges Charles James Givens was attacked by correctional officers in the shower after he accidentally defecated on himself. Givens was found unresponsive in his cell about an hour later where he would later be declared dead, the lawsuit alleges.

The lawsuit states, "The Assistant Chief Medical Examiner determined that Mr. Givens suffered 'blunt force trauma' to his torso/acute rib fractures, resulting in laceration of the spleen and 'massive associated internal bleeding.'" The lawsuit states the assault was covered up.

In the years prior to Givens' death, the lawsuit states that he was taken to Smyth County Community Hospital "for injuries that are highly suggestive of correctional officer abuse and/or neglect."

Givens suffered a traumatic brain injury after falling down a flight of stairs when he was 4 or 5 years old, according to the lawsuit. The lawsuit added

Givens "would require assistance and supervision with daily functioning and tasks."

According to the Lee County Circuit Clerk's Office, Givens had pleaded guilty in 2011 to first-degree murder.

News 5 received a statement from the plaintiff's attorney, Paul Stanley, that reads:

***We are approaching 18 months since a mentally disabled man, Chuck Givens, was tortured and beaten to death off-camera in the shower room at Marion Correctional Treatment Center. Virginia Department of Corrections has officially called it a 'natural death,' but the State's own Medical Examiner says he died from 'blunt force trauma of the torso, resulting in laceration of the spleen and massive associated internal bleeding.' Department of Corrections video rules out the possibility that any person came in contact with Chuck Givens on the day of his death, other than his caretakers. In spite of this, no apologies, much less honesty, have been forthcoming from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Not a single criminal charge has been placed against anyone in connection with Mr. Givens' death. The torture and beating of Chuck Givens was deplorable. The lack of action by our government's 'White Hats' has been shameful.***

<https://wcyb.com/news/local/lawsuit-accuses-correctional-officers-in-marion-of-brutally-beating-inmate-to-death-charles-james-givens-marion-correctional-treatment-center-smyth-county-community-hospital>