

# Suit filed in death of boxer

*Steven K. Little died of Cancer in 2000. His widow alleges Reading Hospital and two doctors were negligent in his care. Attorney's dispute the claim.*

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The widow of former champion boxer Stephen K. Little is seeking more than \$50,000 in a suit alleging that negligence on the part of two doctors and Reading Hospital contributed to his death.

Wanda J. Little of Spring Township alleges Dr. David E. Texter, an emergency room doctor at the hospital, and Dr. Joseph P. Cavorsi, a Wyomissing surgeon, failed to recognize her husband's rectal bleeding was caused by colorectal cancer and not hemorrhoids, as the doctors thought.

The misdiagnosis led to a 10-month delay in his treatment, the suit alleges. By that time, his cancer was incurable, according to the suit.

Reading attorney Edwin L. Stock, who represents Texter and the hospital, said his clients deny being negligent in Little's care.

Steven D. Costello, an Allentown attorney who represents Cavorsi, said no malpractice was involved.

"We will fully explain the reasons for that in court," Costello said.

Wanda Little's Philadelphia attorney, Tom Kline, could not be reached for comment.

The trial is expected to begin next week before Jeffrey L. Schmehl.

Little died at age 34 on Jan. 30, 2000. He had six children, then ranging in age from 9 to 17.

Little was a former WBA super middleweight champion, taking the title Feb. 26, 1994. Considered to be the underdog, Little defeated Michael Nunn in a 12-round decision in London.

He lost the title in the next fight, but went on to win the IBC middleweight crown in 1996 in Reading.

Before turning professional, Little won the 119-pound Philadelphia Novice Golden Gloves title in 1977.

Little was training Brian McKneely, the then-heavyweight champion of Denmark, when he became ill.