

# PAUL ANDERSON, PLLC

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### **Sixth Claim Filed Against Nacogdoches County For Violent Assault by Jailers**

(Nacogdoches Texas, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022) A sixth claim alleging violence and excessive use of force against an inmate has been made against Nacogdoches County.

Shayla Nichols was being held in the Nacogdoches County Jail on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. She was brought out of her cell by several jailers. After she was detained, restrained and facing a wall, Nichols alleges one jailer struck her in the back of her head at least five times before other jailers intervened. She says she was then thrown into a cell covered in feces and with no working plumbing.

Ms. Nichols required immediate medical attention but was denied care. Ms. Nichols says she was also denied use of the inmate kiosk to write and file a complaint for the assault and treatment. Her injuries were documented by jail administrators the following day.

Ms. Nichols' attorney, Paul Anderson, is seeking all records of the October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 assault, including alleged cell phone video recordings of the assault made by one or more jailers. Ms. Nichols is pregnant and on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Nacogdoches County Attorney John Fleming refused to release those records to Ms. Nichols for her medical doctor to review. Nacogdoches County has hired an outside law firm, Flowers Davis, of Tyler Texas, to delay the release of Ms. Nichols' medical records.

Paul Anderson currently represents a family in a custodial death claim and six other people that have been assaulted by employees of the Nacogdoches County Sheriff's office and who have filed claims against Nacogdoches County for serious law enforcement abuse.

Recently, two Nacogdoches County Sheriff jailers were fired and indicted for unlawful sexual contact with an inmate. The alleged jailer that assaulted Ms. Nichols is no longer employed by the Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Office as a jailer but has since moved to another position within Nacogdoches County.

"Ms. Nichols' assault is another well-documented instance of excessive force and violent onslaughts endured at the hands of Nacogdoches County Sheriff's jailers and deputies resulting in serious medical injuries" says Shalya Nichol's attorney, Paul Anderson. "The County Attorney, the Sheriff and County Commissioners are well aware of the problem regarding its violent employees but do nothing about it. Apparently, the beatings will continue until morale improves; it's all on video."

Anderson describes conditions at the Nacogdoches County Jail as an ongoing humanitarian crisis. "It would be far cheaper to elect responsible officials and hire better employees than to continue paying legal defenses, insurance deductibles, and ever-increasing premiums. These are all costs paid by county taxpayers."

Paul Anderson is the principal attorney in a Nacogdoches, Texas civil rights law firm specializing in public corruption, fraud and law enforcement abuse.