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Saturday, April 10, 1999

## Parents of dead student file lawsuit against UT fraternity

DALLAS (AP) - The parents of a student who died of alcohol poisoning in November have filed a lawsuit against a University of Texas fraternity and its members, claiming that pledges tricked their son into drinking more alcohol.

Jack Ivey Jr., 23, died Nov. 11. His parents, Jack and Judith Ivey of Plano, filed the lawsuit against Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity, 17 of its members and its national office, claiming they violated Texas laws against hazing and broke university and fraternity rules.

"He was kidnapped ... his truck was stolen, he was put in the back of it, he was taken in his underwear over to the fraternity and laid out in the yard," said the Iveys' lawyer, Frank Branson of Dallas.

Branson said fraternity pledges tricked Ivey into a drinking contest in which he drank straight rum while his opponent drank water. He also was bound with duct tape around the ankles and wrists, Branson said.

The Associated Press tried to contact fraternity members, but there was no answer at the house's listed phone number. A call to the fraternity's national headquarters in Chester Springs, Penn., also was not returned.

The university ruled in February that hazing was not involved in Ivey's death, it also suspended the fraternity for one year for providing alcohol to underage students and humiliating and intimidating new members. No action was taken against any individual fraternity members.

A spokeswoman for the university referred questions to the school's vice president for student affairs, who did not return a phone message Friday.

Branson said the Ivey family wants the university to reopen its investigation of the fraternity.

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