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WILLIAMS HOUSE FIRE

Press Release

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Kennard and Laquisha Williams lost their 11 year old son, Duke Williams, in an early morning house fire on May 28, 2008. Today, we have filed a lawsuit here in Mobile County against the companies responsible for the senseless loss of this child. We will ask a Mobile County jury to hold these companies accountable for the choices it made that resulted in Duke's death.

The Williams' lawsuit names four (4) companies who we believe are responsible for the death of 11 year old Duke Williams. These four (4) companies include: T-Bone Investments, Keith Realty, BRK and Kidde who are two of the largest smoke detector manufacturers in America.

First, we determined that the rental house was owned by T-Bone Investments and managed by Keith Realty. The Williams family lived in this house a little over a year. The Prichard City Housing Inspector conducted an inspection about five (5) weeks prior to the fire and determined that the house had electrical problems. Keith Realty and T-Bone Investments were given thirty (30) days to make the electrical repairs. A few weeks later, the Prichard City Housing Board conducted a second inspection and the electrical repairs had not been performed. As a result the Board cut-off rental payments to Keith Realty and T-Bone Investment. This apparently got the attention of Keith Realty because on the day before the fire, Keith Realty made a list of materials it would need to perform the repairs. However, it was too little too late. The fire investigator we retained, John Robinson, who was the Alabama Fire Marshal for over twenty (20) years, determined that the cause of the fire was the very electrical problems that T-Bone Investments and Keith Realty had been cited for over a month prior to the fire. Our investigation revealed several electrical code violations that were the cause of this fire and the cause of Duke Williams' death.

Therefore, Keith Realty and T-Bone Investments have been named in this lawsuit and we will ask a Mobile County jury to hold these companies accountable for Duke's death.

BRK and Kidde, are also named in this lawsuit. We have determined that the smoke detectors in the Williams' house performed just as the smoke detector manufacturers could have anticipated. They did not sound. The two smoke detectors in the house were inspected by the City Housing Inspector on April 22, 2008 and again on May 2, 2008, approximately three weeks prior to the accident. They were

working fine. However, when Mr. Williams was trying to save his 11 year old son, neither he, nor the fireman, trying to save Duke heard the smoke detectors sounding. Our investigation and experience from other smoke detector cases tell us why.

These smoke detector manufacturers have known for almost two decades that their ionization smoke detectors fail to timely sound or not sound at all in the presence of the type of thick smoke present in the Williams' house. Unfortunately, BRK and Kidde have chosen not to share what they know with the Williams family and other Americans who buy these smoke detectors. There are two types of smoke detectors. An ionization smoke detector and a photoelectric smoke detector. The ionization smoke detectors are not designed to detect slow smoldering fires, the type that burn slowly and fill a home with smoke, often occurring at night when an entire family is home asleep. Despite this these products continue to be marketed as Smoke Alarms when in fact they are not. We hope this lawsuit will reveal for citizens of not only Mobile County and Alabama, but for the entire country that these ionization smoke detectors are dangerous and defective.

Mr. Williams and the fireman who was assisting him in rescuing his children needed only 10-15 seconds more to save 11 year old Duke Williams. If the smoke detectors in the Williams' house had sounded as people expect them to sound, then Duke would be with us today. Therefore, we will ask a Mobile County jury to hold both BRK and Kidde accountable and responsible for the way they make these smoke detectors and for their failure to let people know about their defects.

Kennard and Laquisha Williams' childrens' names and ages are as follows:

Duke, 11 years old
Daija, 8 years old
Tylexis, 7 years old
Takahia, 5 years old
Ladarrius, 4 years old
Mikalah, 3 years old
DaMarkcus, 11 months old
Jamarkus, 11 months old