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— V. JAMES DESIMONE, Ann Wilson's attorney

## County agrees to \$700,000 payout in man's jail death

**HAWTHORNE:** Widow had claimed in a lawsuit that authorities ignored her husband's medical distress.

By Denise Nix  
STAFF WRITER

A Hawthorne woman whose husband of 22 years died in jail after failing to receive proper medical attention will get \$700,000 from the county under a settlement approved Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors.

William Wilson, 62, died when a blood clot that formed in his leg reached his lungs Oct. 14, 2003. His widow, Carol Ann Wilson, 67, claimed in a federal lawsuit that Sheriff's Department jailers didn't get him a medical workup despite symptoms that included chest pain and elevated blood pressure.

After a review of the case, the county Claims Board determined that a jury may find that the jail personnel's failure to address Wilson's medical condition led to his death, and could cost the county approximately \$1.5 million in damages and fees.

Wilson was arrested by Hawthorne police when he was seen lifting his wife off the ground and yelling at her during a fight on one of their daily morning walks, according to Mrs. Wilson's attorney, V.

James DeSimone.

DeSimone said Wilson's condition, deep vein thrombosis, can cause erratic behavior — which explains why a man without any history of violence toward his wife would act that way.

“The irony and poignant sadness of this is that they were best friends and had a long-standing, happy marriage,” DeSimone said. “They truly loved each other.”

A few days after his arrest, a nurse in the jail reported that Wilson appeared nervous and was unable to state his name and age during an evaluation, according to a case summary by the Claims Board. Later that day, a mental health nurse noted that he was anxious, confused and suffered from poor judgment and delayed speech, the summary states.

Wilson was referred for a clinical exam, but it didn't happen, according to the summary.

On Oct. 10, 2003, during a visit with his wife, he grabbed his chest and doubled over.

Mrs. Wilson reported what she saw to a deputy and was assured her husband would be taken to a clinic. But he wasn't.

The next day, Wilson suffered from chest pain and was discovered lying on the floor. He died on the way to County-USC Medical Center.