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HOMESTEAD

Family of Homestead man files wrongful death suit

■ The death of a Homestead man involved in a scuffle with a Homestead police officer in May prompted the man's family to file a wrongful death suit.

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The family of Jason Williams, shot and killed by a Homestead police officer during a fight in May, has filed a wrongful death suit against the city.

The suit alleges that the police officer, Anthony Green, "intentionally shot" Williams, 28, who was unarmed. It also

charges that the police department tolerates a "pattern of brutality and use of excessive force" against residents, particularly blacks. Williams was black.

The suit was filed in Miami-Dade Circuit Court last week by Sarah Lee Kemp, who had four young children with Williams. Green and the city of Homestead are named as

defendants.

An attorney for Homestead police could not be reached for comment. But C. Michael Cornely, an attorney representing Green in the criminal investigation, said Kemp is motivated by money.

"They're hoping to hit the jackpot," he said. "But, like the lottery, the odds of winning in a case like this are astronomical because the truth is on our side."

Green, an 11-year veteran, was justified in defending him-

self because Williams was reaching for the officer's gun, Cornely said.

One of Kemp's attorneys, David Gold, said his client took legal action to stop Homestead police from mistreating black men.

"If you don't follow through with a lawsuit like this, the bad behavior on the part of the police continues," said Gold, who along with Alan Goldfarb represents Kemp.

The suit is based on an occurrence on the morning of

May 12 when Homestead police fielded a complaint of a disturbance at Mike's Grocery, 33 SW Eighth St.

Green arrived at the store and approached Williams, a convicted drug user, who was sitting alone outside, according to Homestead police.

Green asked Williams to leave the premises. A fight ensued.

During the struggle, Green shot Williams in the abdomen, authorities said. The suit, however, charges that Green

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"improperly" restrained Williams from entering the store.

Williams was airlifted to Ryder Trauma Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Family members later said they believed the shooting was excessive. Miami-Dade detectives and the State Attorney's Office are investigating.

