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# Woman's Beach jail lawsuit moves to federal court

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The Virginian-Pilot

VIRGINIA BEACH

The lawsuit by a mentally ill woman who claims she was denied adequate medical care and severely beaten by sheriff's deputies while at the city jail has been moved to federal court.

In a complaint filed in Virginia Beach Circuit Court last month, Janace Johnson, who has schizoaffective disorder, also claimed she was wrongfully arrested and prosecuted on a charge that was eventually dismissed. The lawsuit sought \$2 million from the city, state and Virginia Beach Sheriff Paul Lanteigne.

Johnson's attorney, Timothy Anderson, said the case was moved to U.S. District Court in Norfolk because the allegations of excessive force and inadequate medical care constituted federal civil rights claims.

Johnson, a retired nurse's aide supervisor, was released from jail May 18 with a

broken nose, ruptured lip, black eye, broken dentures and bruises.

Sheriff's officials have said that Johnson, who was 59 at the time, sustained the injuries when she attacked a female deputy after she was arrested May 17 on a domestic violence charge.

Family members had called police for help in getting an involuntary commitment for Johnson's mental health issues.

**Source URL (retrieved on 04/21/2011 - 11:24):** <http://hamptonroads.com/node/355861>