

# Jeff Dahmer's \$10 Million Judgment: The Deal That Made a Monster

How the State, the Courts, and the Roman Catholic Church Sacrificed One Man to Save Themselves



THE DAHMER CASE

APR 07, 2025



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## The Judgment No One Talks About

In 1992, something extraordinary happened in a quiet Ohio courtroom. A judge ruled that Jeff Dahmer—along with his father Lionel, his mother Joyce, and his stepmother Shari—was legally responsible for the [wrongful death of Steven Hicks](#).

Let that sink in: Jeff's parents and Shari Dahmer were found guilty.



Summit County Court of Common Pleas  
- General Division

### Case Summary

Case Number	CV-1992-08-3291
Plaintiff Caption	MARTHA HICKS, et al.
Defendant Caption	JEFFREY L. DAHMER, et al.
Filing Date	8/28/1992
Case Type	CIVIL
Case Category	WRONGFUL DEATH
Judge/Magistrate	BREAUX
Next Hearing	



People

Case Number	CV-1992-08-3291
Plaintiff Caption	MARTHA HICKS, et al.
Defendant Caption	JEFFREY L. DAHMER, et al.
Judge/Magistrate	

## People

Party Type	DEFENDANT 1
Name	DAHMER, JEFFREY L.
Attorney Information	VUILLEMIN, LAWRENCE 54 E. MILL ST. SUITE 400 AKRON, OH 443080000

Party Type	DEFENDANT 2
Name	DAHMER, JOYCE
Attorney Information	KLUGE, WILLIAM 124 S. METCALF ST. LIMA, OH 458010000

Party Type	DEFENDANT 3
Name	DAHMER, LIONEL
Attorney Information	VUILLEMIN, LAWRENCE 54 E. MILL ST. SUITE 400 AKRON, OH 443080000

Party Type	DEFENDANT 4
Name	DAHMER, SHARI SHINN
Attorney Information	VUILLEMIN, LAWRENCE 54 E. MILL ST. SUITE 400 AKRON, OH 443080000

Party Type	DEFENDANT 5
Name	FLINT, JOYCE
Attorney Information	KLUGE, WILLIAM 124 S. METCALF ST. LIMA, OH 458010000

Party Type	PLAINTIFF 1
Name	HICKS, MARTHA
Attorney Information	DIGIANTONIO, EDWARD 1806 FAIRWAY DRIVE UNIONTOWN, OH 446857830

Party Type	PLAINTIFF 2
Name	HICKS, ESTATE OF ST



(Source: summitoh.net, case number CV-1992-08-3291)

The charge? **Negligent entrustment**. The legal term implies that Lionel and Joyce and Shari Dahmer - gave Jeff access to something dangerous.

Not a gun.

Not a weapon.

A car.

And what happened next makes the entire myth start to unravel.

## Found Guilty, But Not Liable?

Despite being found responsible, Jeff's parents - and Shari Dahmer - faced no financial penalty.

No jail time.

No restitution.

No civil consequences.

Instead, the entire \$10 million judgment was placed solely on Jeff:

Summit County Clerk of Courts			
Case Number: CV-1992-08-3291		MARTHA HICKS VS JEFFREY L. DAHMER	Judge: JAMES R.
		File Date: 08/28/1992	Case Type: WRONGFUL DEATH
<a href="#">Parties</a> <a href="#">Dockets/Motions</a> <a href="#">Judges/Magistrates</a> <a href="#">Service</a>			
Filing Date	By Attorney	Docket Text	
05/10/1995		3RD BILLING	
04/10/1995		2ND BILLING	
03/09/1995		*CASE COSTED THRU 02-28-95. BILLED PLFT'S. ATTY. DIGANTONIO \$46.48.	
02/28/1995	NO ATTY REQUIRED,	JE 1822-530 COURT TERMINATION.	
02/27/1995	NOLAN, CHRIS	JE 1822-101 CASE SETTLED AND DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE. JRW	
01/12/1995	NO ATTY REQUIRED.	JE 1807-383 HEARING CONTINUED UNTIL A LATER DATE. JRW	
01/09/1995	NO ATTY REQUIRED.	JE 1806-570 DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT IS DENIED. THE PARTIES ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR FOR A PRETRIAL ON 1/16/95 AT 8:00 A.M. JRW	
12/07/1994	DIGANTONIO, EDWARD	PLAINTIFF'S NOTICE OF DEPOSITIONS OF LIONEL & SHERI DAHMER 1/16/95 @ 1:00PM.	
11/28/1994	DIGANTONIO, EDWARD	PLAINTIFF'S NOTICE OF DEPOSITIONS OF LIONEL & SHERI DAHMER 12/8/94 @ 1:00PM.	
08/18/1994	DIGANTONIO, EDWARD	PLAINTIFF'S NOTICE OF SERVICE OF FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES AND REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION FOR DOCUMENTS TO DEFENDANTS.	
08/02/1994	DIGANTONIO, EDWARD	JE 1760-119 MARTHA HICKS, ADMINISTRATRIX OF THE ESTATE OF STEVEN HICKS GRANTED JUDGMENT AGAINST JEFFREY DAHMER ONLY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000,000.00. JRW	

Judgment was granted against Jeff only, for \$10,000,000.00



AKRON, Ohio (AP) — A judge has found confessed serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer guilty under civil law in the 1978 slaying of a Summit County man.

Steven Hicks, 18, of Coventry Township, was the first of Dahmer's 17 victims. The others were killed in the Milwaukee area.

The judgment, issued Tuesday by Summit County Common Pleas Judge James Williams, means Hicks' survivors may be entitled to damages, but that will be decided later.

Dahmer has been sentenced to life in prison in both Wisconsin and Ohio. The judgment was issued in response to a \$50 million wrongful death suit filed by Martha Hicks, the mother of Steven Hicks.

Edward DiGiantonio, lawyer for Mrs. Hicks, said Dahmer was given notice of the suit at the Wisconsin prison, where he is serving 15 consecutive life sentences.

The suit alleged that Dahmer's parents knew or should have known Dahmer "was deviant and destined to cause injury and death to others." The suit charged Dahmer himself with wrongful death and said the parents were negligent.

(Source: Daily Kent Stater, Volume LXIX, Number 23, 8 October 1992)

This isn't just irregular. It's unheard of.

In standard wrongful death civil cases, if multiple parties are found liable, they will share the burden of damages.

Not this time.

It was as if the State reached an unspoken agreement:

"Jeff will carry the narrative. He will absorb the blame. He will play the monster. And everyone else will walk away untouched."

## Negligent Entrustment—And the Car That Vanished

The charge of negligent entrustment could only have stemmed from Lionel and Jo allowing Jeff access to a vehicle.

Why?

Because Jeff was an adult at the time, and there's no cap on damages *if a car is involved*. For more detailed information about this, see [Jeff Dahmer's \\$10 Million Judgment](#).

### Why Did His Parents Escape Liability?

This is the car that was allegedly involved in Hicks' disappearance.

But in the fake news version of the story, **the car merely picks Hicks up**. We're told Jeff bludgeoned Hicks with a barbell and dissolved the body in acid.

So why did the Ohio court base liability on something the public was never told at trial?

Because **the Ohio trial and the Milwaukee myth were running on two different tracks**. One was legal. The other was theatrical.





Jeff Dahmer played the role of scapegoat



## The \$10 Million Ritual

Let's talk about the number.

Ten million dollars. Not nine. Not eleven. A round, mythic, **ritualistic number**. It sounds less like a legal judgment and more like a symbolic offering.

A spiritual debt. Paid in full. By one man.

And the price of this absolution?

Jeff becomes the permanent face of evil. A horror story on two legs. A grotesque symbol that keeps the attention off everyone else, especially off the [Archdiocese of Milwaukee](#) and its “Caiaphas,” the homosexual Archbishop Rembert Weakland.

## **What Jeff Gave Up—And What They Gained**

In exchange for this role, Jeff’s parents avoided total ruin.

The Hicks family got a judgment on paper. (They likely told the Hicks family, “We can’t give you money. But we’ll give you a sentence so harsh, so total, it will satisfy world.”)

The State avoided scrutiny.

The police, the Archdiocese, and local institutions escaped deeper questioning.

And Jeff? He became a scapegoat. Not just a man accused of murder, but a container for every sin and failure the system couldn’t face.





Young Jeff Dahmer with his cat



If you know your Old Testament, you know that a *scapegoat* isn't killed in front of *crowd*. It's *banished, exiled, loaded with guilt, and erased from the community*.

That's what happened to Jeff Dahmer.

## **It Wasn't a Confession. It Was a Transaction.**

Jeff's confession was oddly clean, theatrical, and mythic. It read like a script.

Because it was one.

It was never about what he did. It was about **what he agreed to carry**. A story so grotesque and saturated with horror that no one would look behind it.

## **The Monster Was Made to Protect Everyone Else**

When you look at the civil judgment—and the eerie silence that followed it—the scope of the ritual becomes clear:

- Jeff was useful
- His family was protected because of his sacrifice
- The real crimes stayed buried

And we got a serial killer story that never quite added up.

Because it wasn't supposed to.

It wasn't justice. It wasn't the truth.

It was a **deal**.

And the price was a man's soul.





Jeff Dahmer with his father and brother

## The Archdiocese of Milwaukee Chose the Goat

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee—the institution that should have upheld the gospel of Jesus Christ—instead followed a different gospel: the “Gospel” of Leviticus. 

They didn’t act like believers in Christ. They acted like the high priests of the Old Testament: 

- Choosing a scapegoat
- Marking him with guilt
- Burdening him with institutional sin
- And casting him out into the wilderness

In Leviticus 16, this is called **atonement**. But in the New Testament? That ritual was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

No more scapegoats.

No more blood carried into the wilderness.

No more lives sacrificed for others' sins.

Yet the Archdiocese of Milwaukee wanted one more. So they picked Jeff Dahmer.

And the system agreed: **Let him carry it all.**

They said they followed Jesus Christ.

But, they used a goat.

For more information, see [The Binding of Jeff Dahmer: What Gregory O'Meara's Biblical Reference Reveals About the Story](#).



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Vivi Apr 7

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This is so beautifully written—it truly struck a chord with me. It breaks my heart to see how Jeff was dehumanized, his entire identity as a complex, suffering human being reduced to a single, monstrous label. He was turned into a symbol of evil while those who failed him—the adults, the institutions, the society that looked the other way—walked away without consequence. It's deeply disturbing, even sickening, how easily the blame was displaced, and how little attention was paid to the roots of his pain and isolation. Thank you, sincerely, for daring to speak the truth and for shedding light on the uncomfortable realities that so many are quick to ignore.

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