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## Injured man won't survive, doctors tell family members

**Russell can't get victim assistance because police say his injuries were accidentally inflicted**

**By David Webb**  
Staff Writer

The Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Fund would not consider helping a gay Dallas man who was found lying in an Oak Lawn apartment complex parking lot critically injured because the Dallas Police Department classified it as an accident, according to his family.

"The police said that because there are no witnesses and no evidence that somebody did this to him, they can't classify him as a victim," said Lovene Jones.

Her son, Dorian Russell, was found in the 5000 block of Bowser Street just before dawn on Dec. 26. He was lying face-up with blood running from his mouth and ear.

"It's not going to be changed from accident to victim so we can't get any assistance," his mother said.

Jones said that victim services coordinator Pat Keaton said she could not help unless police officials changed the classification from an accident to a crime.

Keaton had no comment.

When Jones met with police officials recently, they told her Russell's injuries appeared to be an intoxicated fall down a stairway, she said.

"I said, 'there's no way,'" Jones said. "No one at the hospital thought he did this to himself. He has a head injury on the left side and bruising on the right side, like someone was kicking him really hard."

Jones said that her son had been at a nearby gay bar drinking beer earlier in the evening. He has been unable to communicate since he was found in the alley.

Jones said that Russell's doctors told her recently that he would not survive. They suggested hospice care, she said.

"He's deteriorating," Jones said. "He really isn't



Dorian Russell was found lying in his apartment parking lot critically injured.



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there. The only thing is that his eyes are open. He cannot move anything.”

Jones said that Russell’s doctors originally thought that he could be rehabilitated, but that “window of opportunity for improvement is lost now.” Infections and fluid gathering on his brain apparently caused critical neurological damage, she said.

Jones said that the extent of Russell’s injuries — and the presence of a car with its engine running at the scene, a car no one ever claimed, leads her to believe her son was the victim of a crime.

Paramedics responding to the scene found injuries to the back of Russell’s head, left elbow, both knees and lower leg, according to the police report. A trail of blood led to a staircase nearby, where more blood was found on the wall and a stair step, it said.

A 1991 Toyota was found with the door open, the engine running and the lights on about 200 feet away from Russell. The car remains impounded by police.

Russell’s cell phone remains missing, although someone answered it in the days after her son was found, Jones said.

Police transferred Russell’s case to the crime investigation unit after Dallas Voice inquired about the case in January. His family said that police had refused to review the case until then.

Manuel Martinez, who is Russell’s partner, said he believes that the police improperly classified the crime initially and that they have since failed to investigate it.

“They haven’t really handled it,” Martinez said.

“They say they’ve done everything they can, but I don’t think they have.”

Police officials could not be reached for comment.

Martinez said that Russell needs the help of the compensation fund because he believes that there is still hope of a recovery. He and friends go to the hospital room and move Russell limbs in an attempt to give him physical therapy, he said.

“I see him doing better sometimes,” Martinez said. “I don’t think we have the support we need. They’re giving up on him.”

Jones said that police officials told her that nothing more could be done by them unless someone comes forward with information that would lead them to a suspect.

“Everyone says they heard and saw nothing,” Jones said.

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Anyone with information related to Russell's injuries should contact Dallas Police Det. James Skelly at 214-671-3604.  
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