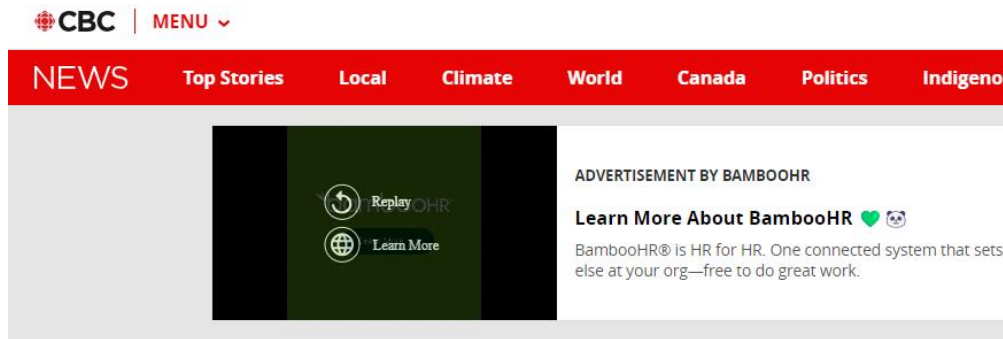


## GRUS, Helen – MSM NEWS publications for December 7, 2023

- Articles collected from CBC, CTV, Ottawa Sun, Ottawa Citizen, and MSN amplification of Ottawa Citizen story:

CBC – December 7, 2023

[https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-police-board-settles-with-family-over-invasion-of-privacy-1.7052010?fbclid=IwAR2n4oa6AhDixBT2muDKc3o-SZ59QDwk3ZyyVWQtXWNXRJYwfhx8\\_tAkCJc](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-police-board-settles-with-family-over-invasion-of-privacy-1.7052010?fbclid=IwAR2n4oa6AhDixBT2muDKc3o-SZ59QDwk3ZyyVWQtXWNXRJYwfhx8_tAkCJc)



Ottawa

### Ottawa police board settles with family over invasion of privacy

Const. Helen Grus accused of improperly accessing records to determine parents' vaccination status

CBC News - Posted: Dec 07, 2023 1:15 PM EST | Last Updated: December 7



The Ottawa Police Service suspended Const. Helen Grus with pay in February 2022 after she was accused under the Police Services Act of improperly accessing records in an attempt to determine whether the parents of deceased children had been vaccinated against COVID-19. (Avanthika Anand/CBC)

The Ottawa Police Services Board has settled a lawsuit involving an officer accused of invading a grieving family's privacy by trying to determine the vaccination status of a recently deceased infant's mother.

Const. Helen Grus, a detective with the Ottawa Police Service's sexual assault and child abuse unit, was accused of discreditable conduct under the Police Services Act for allegedly accessing records related to infant and child deaths for no investigative purpose.

- [Detective tried to uncover vaccine status of dead children's parents, sources say](#)
- [Grieving mother not told nature of misconduct in probe of baby's death: lawyer](#)

Grus is alleged to have contacted a deceased baby's father on Jan. 30, 2022, to ask about the mother's COVID-19 vaccination status. She was suspended with pay a few days later, on Feb. 4.

The police disciplinary proceedings against her are ongoing and expected to resume in January.

In a media release Thursday, lawyer Lawrence Greenspon said a family wishing to remain anonymous has settled a civil claim against the police board in "relation to the invasion of privacy of their deceased child's records by Constable Helen Grus."

Grus is accused under the Police Services Act of improperly accessing records related to several infant deaths in Ottawa for the purpose of trying to find out if the parents of the deceased children had been vaccinated against COVID-19.

In settling the civil claim, the police board did not admit any liability. The amount of the settlement hasn't been disclosed.

The anonymous family is quoted in the media release saying the "blatant disregard shown for the families involved shows just how far some people are willing to go to push their own agendas.

"Targeting grieving families who have experienced the worst tragedy any parent can face in this lifetime is truly abhorrent and should be condemned in the strongest way possible."

[CBC's Journalistic Standards and Practices](#) | [About CBC News](#)

[Corrections and clarifications](#) | [Submit a news tip](#) | [Report error](#) ▼

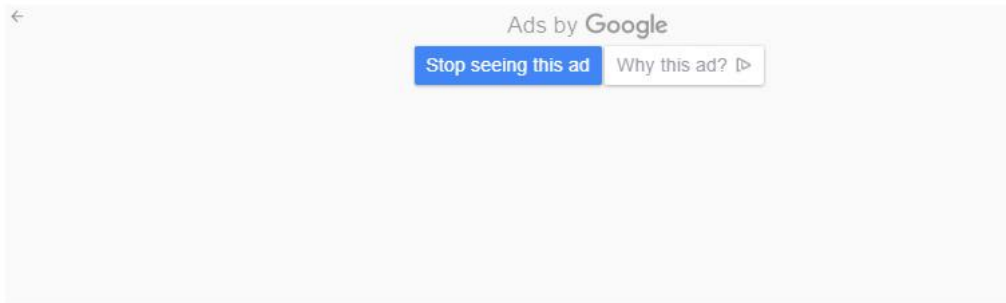
CTV – December 7, 2023

[https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/ottawa-police-board-settles-with-family-over-officer-who-accessed-dead-child-s-vaccine-records-1.6678298?fbclid=IwAR1FYh8efdXP7-cwsv\\_NqtcV-N\\_wSBZyRYSke7wjyh1DNUT2VEuHoHX6fHw](https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/ottawa-police-board-settles-with-family-over-officer-who-accessed-dead-child-s-vaccine-records-1.6678298?fbclid=IwAR1FYh8efdXP7-cwsv_NqtcV-N_wSBZyRYSke7wjyh1DNUT2VEuHoHX6fHw)

**CTV NEWS**  
**OTTAWA**

NEWS ▾ VIDEO ▾ SHOWS ▾ ABOUT ▾ ACROSS CANADA ▾

ADVERTISEMENT



OTTAWA | News

## Ottawa police board settles with family over officer who accessed dead child's vaccine records



The sign outside Ottawa Police headquarters on Elgin St. is seen in this undated photo. (CTV News Ottawa)



William Eltherington  
CTV News Ottawa Digital  
Multi-Skilled Journalist

[Contact](#)

Published Dec. 7, 2023 5:31  
p.m. EST

Share



The Ottawa Police Services Board has settled a case involving a police officer who was accused of wrongfully accessing a deceased child's vaccination status.

The board settled the case for the conduct of Const. Helen Grus, a detective who was accused of discreditable conduct under the Police Services Act for [asking about the vaccination records related to nine infant and child deaths](#)<sup>↗</sup>.

Grus allegedly investigated the records without permission from police.

The Ottawa Police Services Board settled with one of the families whose baby was born and died in June 2021.

#### RELATED STORIES

- [Ottawa police officer accused of accessing police databases in death of infant and child cases](#)

Grus allegedly contacted the deceased baby's father on Jan. 30, 2022 to ask about the mother's COVID-19 vaccination status, according to police documents.

After a complaint was filed against Grus with OPS, Grus was suspended with pay on Feb. 4, 2022.

Lawrence Greenspon, the family's lawyer, said the case was settled this week for an undisclosed amount.

"Parents are not put on this earth to bury their children," he told CTV News Ottawa.

"When a tragedy happens, the family's privacy must be respected."

Greenspon said the family would like to thank the Ottawa Police Service for acknowledging their grief and recognizing the importance of privacy.

The police disciplinary hearings against Grus will continue in January.

---

Ottawa Sun – December 7, 2023

[https://ottawasun.com/news/local-news/family-settles-privacy-complaint-with-ottawa-police-services-board/wcm/12b32a8e-ae04-46d8-8d1a-f2c9336de0ce?fbclid=IwAR2SzhRgghNNodQNxSFhBb-07-x5AE1QeFZzQzj1BzdVIG\\_aspCpIIBC6wk](https://ottawasun.com/news/local-news/family-settles-privacy-complaint-with-ottawa-police-services-board/wcm/12b32a8e-ae04-46d8-8d1a-f2c9336de0ce?fbclid=IwAR2SzhRgghNNodQNxSFhBb-07-x5AE1QeFZzQzj1BzdVIG_aspCpIIBC6wk)



Ottawa / News



## UNDISCLOSED SETTLEMENT: Family settles privacy complaint with Ottawa Police Services Board

*The family never filed a statement of claim in the civil lawsuit. Instead, the claim was settled in pre-litigation.*

Joanne Laucius

Published Dec 07, 2023 • Last updated 22 hours ago • 2 minute read

[Join the conversation](#)



As part of the settlement, the family and the police services board agreed that the amount of the settlement would not be disclosed. PHOTO BY ERROL MCGIHON / POSTMEDIA

An unnamed family has won a settlement from the Ottawa Police Services Board after an Ottawa police officer was accused of taking it upon herself to investigate the COVID-19 vaccination status of the parents of babies who had died.

The amount of the settlement has not been made public.

 [Start the conversation](#)



### Have your say

Leave a comment and share your thoughts with our community.



Be the First to Comment ↓

Const. Helen Grus, a detective with the sexual assault and child abuse unit, is accused of discreditable conduct under the Police Services Act. Investigators with the Ottawa Police Service professional standards unit alleged that Grus accessed nine child or infant death cases in which she had no investigative role and also that she contacted the father of a deceased baby directly on Jan. 30, 2022, to inquire about the mother's COVID-19 vaccination status.

Grus was suspended on Feb. 4, 2022. Hearings into those allegations are to continue in January.

In settling the claim, there was no admission of liability, said Lawrence Greenspon, a lawyer for the family. As part of the settlement, the parties agreed that the amount of the settlement would not be disclosed.

The family's name is not part of court records because the family never filed a statement of claim in the civil lawsuit. The claim was settled in pre-litigation after lawyers for the family sent a letter to the police services board claiming "intrusion upon seclusion" under civil law, Greenspon said.

The family's baby died in June 2021, he said. In March 2022, the family heard from a representative with the professional standards unit of the Ottawa Police Service, advising them there had been a privacy breach.

Because of the disciplinary proceedings against Grus, there was little flow of information to the family, Greenspon said. An investigation into the baby's death was concluded in May 2023. "The almost two years of investigation made it worse," the lawyer said.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

KENI KUJDES VAGIN AMB COMPTE DBEJTE NA SVOU BEZPEČNOST БУДЬТЕОБАЧНИМИ  
注意安全VAR FÖRSIKTIG **BE SAFE** BUĎTE OPATRŇI MAGING MAINGAT  
SEIEN SIE VORSICHTIG HOLD DEG TRYGG BADBAADO AHOW ZACHOWAJ BEZPIECZEŃSTWO

In a statement, the family thanked the Ottawa Police Services Board for acknowledging their grief and for recognizing the importance of privacy rights.

“The blatant disregard shown for the families involved shows just how far some people are willing to go to push their own agendas,” the family’s statement said. “Targeting grieving families who have experienced the worst tragedy any parent can face in this lifetime is truly abhorrent and should be condemned in the strongest way possible.”

The family appreciates that the police services board has settled their claim, Greenspon said.

“Their privacy should never have been intruded upon.”

The Ottawa Police Services Board said it did not comment on civil matters.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW



Police board chair Dr. Gail Beck also declined to comment “in order to respect the confidentiality of the settlement.”

Discreditable conduct hearings for Grus under the Police Services Act began this fall and are set to resume on Jan. 8. If she is found guilty of discreditable conduct, the Ottawa Police Service may seek dismissal or demotion as a penalty.

*Our website is your destination for up-to-the-minute news, so make sure to bookmark our homepage and [sign up for our newsletters](#) so we can keep you informed.*

Ottawa Citizen – December 7, 2023

[https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/family-settles-privacy-complaint-with-ottawa-police-services-board?fbclid=IwAR17Dg8S54AMK8Yo9OsNehPF\\_4AV\\_L00a6BIQNqQnHQ58-a-kx8cW-1KJEY](https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/family-settles-privacy-complaint-with-ottawa-police-services-board?fbclid=IwAR17Dg8S54AMK8Yo9OsNehPF_4AV_L00a6BIQNqQnHQ58-a-kx8cW-1KJEY)

OTTAWA CITIZEN



Ad removed. [Details](#)



News / Local News



## Family settles privacy complaint with Ottawa Police Services Board

*The family never filed a statement of claim in the civil lawsuit. Instead, the claim was settled in pre-litigation.*

Joanne Laucius

Published Dec 07, 2023 • Last updated 22 hours ago • 2 minute read

[Join the conversation](#)



As part of the settlement, the family and the police services board agreed that the amount of the settlement would not be disclosed. PHOTO BY ERROL MCGIHON / POSTMEDIA

An unnamed family has won a settlement from the Ottawa Police Services Board after an Ottawa police officer was accused of taking it upon herself to investigate the COVID-19 vaccination status of the parents of babies who had died.

The amount of the settlement has not been made public.

Const. Helen Grus, a detective with the sexual assault and child abuse unit, is accused of discreditable conduct under the Police Services Act. Investigators with the Ottawa Police Service professional standards unit alleged that Grus accessed nine child or infant death cases in which she had no investigative role and also that she contacted the father of a deceased baby directly on Jan. 30, 2022, to inquire about the mother's COVID-19 vaccination status.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

Ads by Google

[Send feedback](#)

[Why this ad?](#) 

Grus was suspended on Feb. 4, 2022. Hearings into those allegations are to continue in January.

In settling the claim, there was no admission of liability, said Lawrence Greenspon, a lawyer for the family. As part of the settlement, the parties agreed that the amount of the settlement would not be disclosed.

The family's name is not part of court records because the family never filed a statement of claim in the civil lawsuit. The claim was settled in pre-litigation after lawyers for the family sent a letter to the police services board claiming "intrusion upon seclusion" under civil law, Greenspon said.

## OTTAWA CITIZEN

---

The family's baby died in June 2021, he said. In March 2022, the family heard from a representative with the professional standards unit of the Ottawa Police Service, advising them there had been a privacy breach.

Because of the disciplinary proceedings against Grus, there was little flow of information to the family, Greenspon said. An investigation into the baby's death was concluded in May 2023. "The almost two years of investigation made it worse," the lawyer said.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

Ads by Google

[Send feedback](#)

[Why this ad?](#) 

In a statement, the family thanked the Ottawa Police Services Board for acknowledging their grief and for recognizing the importance of privacy rights.

"The blatant disregard shown for the families involved shows just how far some people are willing to go to push their own agendas," the family's statement said. "Targeting grieving families who have experienced the worst tragedy any parent can face in this lifetime is truly abhorrent and should be condemned in the strongest way possible."

The family appreciates that the police services board has settled their claim, Greenspon said.

"Their privacy should never have been intruded upon."

The Ottawa Police Services Board said it did not comment on civil matters.

Police board chair Dr. Gail Beck also declined to comment "in order to respect the confidentiality of the settlement."

Discreditable conduct hearings for Grus under the Police Services Act began this fall and are set to resume on Jan. 8. If she is found guilty of discreditable conduct, the Ottawa Police Service may seek dismissal or demotion as a penalty.

*Our website is your destination for up-to-the-minute news, so make sure to bookmark our homepage and [sign up for our newsletters](#) so we can keep you informed.*

## RELATED STORIES



**[Pikwakanagan declares 'state of emergency' over opioids](#)**



**[Low rates of COVID vaccination putting the elderly at risk: medical officer of...](#)**




## COMMENTS

You must be logged in to join the discussion or read more comments.

[Create an Account](#)

[Sign in](#)

 **JOIN THE CONVERSATION**




Postmedia is committed to maintaining a lively but civil forum for discussion and encourage all readers to share their views on our articles. Comments may take up to an hour for moderation before appearing on the site. We ask you to keep your comments relevant and respectful. We have enabled email notifications—you will now receive an email if you receive a reply to your comment, there is an update to a comment thread you follow or if a user you follow comments. Visit our [Community Guidelines](#) for more information and details on how to adjust your [email settings](#).

[FOLLOW](#)



MSN – Microsoft News amplified the Ottawa Citizen story, sharing on the recommended news feed for viewers:


<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/canada/family-settles-privacy-complaint-with-ottawa-police-services-board/ar-AA1lam8r?fbclid=IwAR1F1np9XIAdfILFlrT77IKFg4T7G-Gaj0qrBn5xkxHNbmYP61USAEIrhJw>

 Microsoft Start

Search the web


DiscoverFollowingNewsWorldEntertainmentLifestyleHealthFoodAutos

  **Earn up to 10% in Cash Back Dollars\***  
on eligible purchases for 3 months plus  
no Annual Fee in your first year.<sup>†</sup>  
\*On gas & grocery purchases & pre-authorized payments for the first 3 months up to a total spend of \$3,500.  
†Conditions apply. Limited time offer. [Apply now](#)

 Ottawa Citizen [+ Follow](#)

**Family settles privacy complaint with Ottawa Police Services Board**

Story by Joanne Laucius • 1d



As part of the settlement, the family and the police services board agreed that the amount of the settlement would not be disclosed.  
© Provided by Ottawa Citizen

As part of the settlement, the family and the police services board agreed that the amount of the settlement would not be disclosed.  
© Provided by Ottawa Citizen



An unnamed family has won a settlement from the Ottawa Police Services Board after an Ottawa police officer was accused of taking it upon herself to investigate the COVID-19 vaccination status of the parents of babies who had died.

The amount of the settlement has not been made public.

#### Klass Kote Epoxy Coatings - Highly Protective Epoxy Paint

Ad [www.klasskote.com](http://www.klasskote.com)



Const. Helen Grus, a detective with the sexual assault and child abuse unit, is accused of discreditable conduct under the Police Services Act. Investigators with the Ottawa Police Service professional standards unit alleged that Grus accessed nine child or infant death cases in which she had no investigative role and also that she contacted the father of a deceased baby directly on Jan. 30, 2022, to inquire about the mother's COVID-19 vaccination status.

Grus was suspended on Feb. 4, 2022. Hearings into those allegations are to continue in January.

In settling the claim, there was no admission of liability, said Lawrence Greenspon, a lawyer for the family. As part of the settlement, the parties agreed that the amount of the settlement would not be disclosed.

The family's name is not part of court records because the family never filed a statement of claim in the civil lawsuit. The claim was settled in pre-litigation after lawyers for the family sent a letter to the police services board claiming "intrusion upon seclusion" under civil law, Greenspon said.



The family's baby died in June 2021, he said. In March 2022, the family heard from a representative with the professional standards unit of the Ottawa Police Service, advising them there had been a privacy breach.

Because of the disciplinary proceedings against Grus, there was little flow of information to the family, Greenspon said. An investigation into the baby's death was concluded in May 2023. "The almost two years of investigation made it worse," the lawyer said.

In a statement, the family thanked the Ottawa Police Services Board for acknowledging their grief and for recognizing the importance of privacy rights.

"The blatant disregard shown for the families involved shows just how far some people are willing to go to push their own agendas," the family's statement said. "Targeting grieving families who have experienced the worst tragedy any parent can face in this lifetime is truly abhorrent and should be condemned in the strongest way possible."

The family appreciates that the police services board has settled their claim, Greenspon said.

"Their privacy should never have been intruded upon."

The Ottawa Police Services Board said it did not comment on civil matters.

Police board chair Dr. Gail Beck also declined to comment "in order to respect the confidentiality of the settlement."

Discreditable conduct hearings for Grus under the Police Services Act began this fall and are set to resume on Jan. 8. If she is found guilty of discreditable conduct, the Ottawa Police Service may seek dismissal or demotion as a penalty.

*Our website is your destination for up-to-the-minute news, so make sure to bookmark our homepage and [sign up for our newsletters](#) so we can keep you informed.*