

Johnson | Cephas Law, PLLC

Lashandra Peoples-Johnson • Cordal Cephas
Attorneys at Law

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Date: April 8, 2026

NOTICE OF TORT CLAIM

TO:

Muskogee County Clerk
400 W Broadway St.
Muskogee, OK 74401

AND TO:

Board of County Commissioners Clerk
400 W Broadway St.
Muskogee, OK 74401

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
MUSKOGEE COUNTY
FILED OR RECORDED
2026 APR 10 PM 1:49
POLLY RAYNE
COUNTY CLERK

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

This law firm represents Natalie Burton, a former detainee at the Muskogee County Jail. Ms. Burton was taken into custody on or about April 11, 2025, at approximately 3:45 PM and remained incarcerated for approximately two (2) hours. During that time, while in the custody and control of Muskogee County Jail staff, Ms. Burton was subjected to a brutal and unprovoked physical assault by two (2) jail guards employed by the facility.

Specifically, Ms. Burton was beaten, kicked, and stabbed by these guards without justification. The actions of these employees constitute excessive force, deliberate indifference to her safety, and a violation of her constitutional rights. As a direct result of this assault, Ms. Burton has suffered significant physical injuries, ongoing medical complications, and severe mental and psychological trauma.

The conduct of the Muskogee County Jail staff represented a disregard for Ms. Burton's health, safety and welfare, which were the responsibility of the Muskogee County Jail and staff while she was in their custody and control.

CLAIMANT

Natalie Burton
In care of Claimant's Counsel
Johnson Cephass Law, PLLC
6931 S. 66th E. Ave., Suite 105
Tulsa, OK 74105

CLAIMANT'S COUNSEL

Lashandra Peoples-Johnson
Cordal Cephass
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Tulsa, OK 74105

DATE AND LOCATION OF TORTS COMMITTED AGAINST CLAIMANT

Ms. Burton was detained at the Muskogee County Jail on or about April 11, 2025, beginning at approximately 3:45 PM and lasting for approximately two (2) hours. During this period of detention, the tortious conduct described herein occurred within the Muskogee County Jail facility.

FACTS

On April 11, 2025, Ms. Burton was taken into custody and transported to the Muskogee County Jail. At all relevant times, she was under the exclusive care, custody, and control of jail staff.

While detained, Ms. Burton was physically assaulted by two (2) guards employed by the Muskogee County Jail. The guards used excessive and unreasonable force, including but not limited to beating, kicking, and stabbing Ms. Burton.

This assault was not justified by any legitimate penological purpose and was carried out in violation of established policies, procedures, and Ms. Burton's constitutional rights. Jail staff had a duty to ensure her safety and well-being while in custody but instead directly inflicted harm upon her.

As a direct and proximate result of the assault, Ms. Burton suffered serious physical injuries requiring medical attention. She continues to experience ongoing medical issues related to those injuries. Additionally, she has endured significant emotional distress, mental anguish, and psychological trauma as a result of the incident.

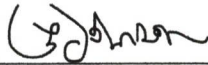
The actions of the guards, as well as the failure of Muskogee County Jail to properly train, supervise, and control its employees, constitute negligence and/or reckless misconduct under the Oklahoma Governmental Tort Claims Act. Furthermore, the conduct described herein rises to the level of a violation of Ms. Burton's rights under the United States Constitution, including but not limited to the prohibition against excessive force.

DAMAGES CLAIMED

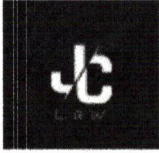
As a direct and proximate result of the acts and omissions of Muskogee County Jail and its employees, Ms. Burton has suffered and continues to suffer damages, including but not limited to:

- Physical pain and suffering
- Past and future medical expenses
- Ongoing medical complications
- Mental anguish and emotional distress
- Psychological trauma
- Loss of enjoyment of life

Ms. Burton seeks damages in the maximum amount allowed by law as provided in the Oklahoma Governmental Tort Claims Act.



Lashandra Peoples-Johnson, Esq.
For the Claimant



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CLAIMANT

Natalie Burton

In care of Claimant's Counsel

Johnson Cephas Law, PLLC

6931 S. 66th E. Ave., Suite 105

Tulsa, OK 74105

CLAIMANT'S COUNSEL

Lashandra Peoples-Johnson

Cordal Cephas

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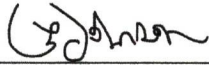
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Lashandra Peoples-Johnson, Esq.
For the Claimant



COUNTY CLERK <countyclerk.muskogee@gmail.com>

RE: Tort Claim

1 message

dustyb@okacco.com <dustyb@okacco.com>
To: COUNTY CLERK <countyclerk.muskogee@gmail.com>
Cc: Jonathan Huseman <jonathanh@okacco.com>

Fri, Apr 10, 2026 at 2:27 PM

received

Dusty Birdsong

ACCO-SIG/SIF Administrator

Direct Line 405-516-5318

Cell # 405-802-9647

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From: COUNTY CLERK <countyclerk.muskogee@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2026 2:01 PM
To: dustyb@okacco.com
Subject: Tort Claim