

Suits Blame Trait Deaths on Cutback

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A loss of welfare payments prompted Gail "Trait" accused slayer of her four young children, to seek their return from foster care according to two \$40 million lawsuits filed by the children's grandmother on Thursday.

Mrs. Dorothy Williams of 246 Carlton St., mother of Mrs. Trait, alleged that by cutting off welfare benefits after the children were placed in foster care, the Department of Social Services gave Mrs. Trait a "Hobson's choice":

Either go without support or take back the children she was found "emotionally unable to cope with."

Awaiting Trial

Mrs. Trait, 26, is accused of murdering her four children in her upper apartment at 122 Montana Ave. last July 16. She is in jail, without bail while awaiting trial on murder charges.

Attorney Carl Vizzi, counsel for Mrs. Trait, announced last week his intention of filing a \$40 million lawsuit against Erie County and Fred J. Buscaglia, county social services commissioner.

On Thursday Vizzi filed a notice of claim in that action in the County Clerk's office. In a separate action, he filed notice of intent to file a claim against

the state in the State Court of Claims.

Each seeks \$40 million — \$10 million for the alleged "wrongful death" of each of the children — on behalf of Mrs. Williams, administrator of the estates of the four children: Domario, 2, Inez, 4, Amina, 6, and Kylla, 9.

To Pursue One Course

Vizzi said he intends to pursue one or the other of the actions, not both, but filed claims in both cases to protect the family's interests.

Vizzi charged state and county officials with gross negligence for failing to check Mrs. Trait's mental state before returning the children to her two weeks before they were killed.

"If they had, these four children would be alive today," said Vizzi.