

Family of woman killed by estranged husband accepts \$13.5M settlement

By [Grace Barbic](#) gbarbic@lawbulletinmedia.com
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The family of a woman who was shot and killed by her estranged husband in a murder-suicide when he accessed her residence after she notified building security that he was a threat to her safety accepted a \$13.5 million settlement.

Sania Khan was married to Raheel Ahmad in June 2021.

Ahmad had undiagnosed mental health issues that Khan was unaware of when they got married, according to the complaint.

The couple lived together in an apartment at The Grand Ohio on 211 E Ohio St. in Chicago.

In December 2021, Ahmad had a mental health episode in which he attempted to commit suicide by jumping out of the window of their apartment on the 28th floor.

According to the complaint, Ahmad also attempted to harm Khan by pulling and pushing her out the window as well.

Police were called and Ahmad was taken to a hospital for mental health treatment.

After that incident, the building security was allegedly informed of what happened and placed on notice that Ahmad was a threat to Khan.

Ahmad was later removed from the lease and Khan requested that he be prevented from entering the building.

She had the building change her locks, among other efforts to ensure Ahmad would not be able to access her apartment, documents stated.

Khan also filed for divorce in February 2022.

Khan was a well-known photographer and TikTok creator who garnered attention on social media as she documented the struggles faced by many South Asian women who attempt to leave abusive marriages.

On July 18, 2022, Ahmad arranged an apartment showing at The Grand Ohio with Chelsea Gideon, a real estate agent for @Properties.

Ahmad showed up with a backpack and garment bag that had Khan’s wedding dress in it, the plaintiffs’ attorneys said.

He was able to enter the building without security checking his identification, in violation of the building’s security policy.

Ahmad was shown a couple of apartments before he asked the real estate agent if he could stay in the building to visit friends that lived there.

Gideon allowed Ahmad to stay in the secured residential area unaccompanied, instead of escorting him out of the building pursuant to building policy.



Michael L. Gallagher



Michael L. Shanahan



Furqan Mohammed



Ahmad then took the elevator to the 28th floor where Khan lived. His backpack contained a loaded handgun, documents stated.

He entered Khan’s apartment and then shot and killed her. He then eventually turned the gun on himself and committed suicide.

Shazia Khan, as the independent administrator of the estate, sued First Service Residential Illinois Inc., who managed the building, as well as The Grand Ohio Condominium Association, Gideon and @Properties for wrongful death in [Cook County Circuit Court](#).

The complaint alleged the parties were negligent in failing to request Ahmad’s identification upon entering the building, failing to inspect his bags, failing to ensure the visitor remained accompanied and failing to provide reasonable security services, among other claims.

The parties reached a global settlement agreement, partly through mediation with [Christopher E. Lawler](#) of [ADR Systems](#).

Cook County Circuit Court Judge [Eileen M. O’Connor](#) also assisted in settling the matter. O’Connor approved the settlement agreement Sept. 8.

The award is divided among Khan’s parents and two adult siblings.

The estate of Khan and her family are represented by [Michael L. Gallagher](#) and [Michael L. Shanahan](#) of [Gallagher Law Offices LLC](#), as well as [Furqan Mohammed](#) of [Mohammed, Shamaileh & Tabahi LLC](#).

“My clients are thankful to put this terrible tragedy behind them and begin the healing process,” Gallagher said.

First Service Residential is represented by [J. Hayes Ryan](#), [Richard E. Daniels](#) and [Aleeza F. Mian](#) of [Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani](#), as well as [Michael A. Schlechtweg](#) previously of [Amundsen Davis LLC](#). Schlechtweg is now with [Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC](#).

The Grand Ohio is represented by [Brian A. Sher](#) and [Stephen G. Strauss](#) of [Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP](#).

@Properties is represented by [Kingshuk K. Roy](#), [Dustin J. Karrison](#) and [Charlotte J. Meltzer](#) of [Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP](#).

None of those attorneys could be reached for comment.

The case is *Khan v. First Service Residential, et al.*, No. 2022 L 8911.

Practice Areas: [Personal Injury Law](#)