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Downs' Suit Still Pending

Charley Downs, 56, former employee of Johns-Manville who died in an Oklahoma City hospital Sunday, had filed a \$2.5 million class action suit against Johns-Manville last November.

The action was filed in the Eastern District of Federal Court and alleged that Downs had been exposed to cancer-causing asbestos during his tenure with J-M.

An autopsy was performed on Downs, but no information was available.

Downs was the second former J-M employee to die who has blamed their work with their fatal illness.

In December 1975 Glen Wayne Gage, 46, died of lung cancer, and on Dec. 17, 1978, his widow, Dorothy Gage, filed a \$250,000 suit in the same federal court charging that her husband's death was due to exposure to raw asbestos materials while working for J-M.

Downs filed the suit originally, but since he died, if the courts rule he died because of what he alleged, then the widow would be eligible for some benefits from that suit.

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