

False arrest case settled out of court

By Jeannie Faris
News staff writer

The state Insurance Reserve Fund will pay a settlement of an undisclosed amount to a Greenville County woman who filed a lawsuit against two sheriff's deputies claiming they arrested her wrongfully and broke her arm in the process, attorneys said.

The reserve fund insures

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Settlement

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public bodies, including Greenville County, for tort liability.

Alice G. Carpenter was arrested April 25, 1988, and charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest, according to a lawsuit she filed in April 1989.

Three months before she filed the civil suit, a jury found Ms. Carpenter innocent of the criminal charge of resisting arrest, the suit said. The disorderly conduct charge was dropped, said her attorney, Steve Henry.

Seeking compensatory and punitive damages, Ms. Carpenter named as defendants Renee Sherbert and Wayne Clark in their official capacities as deputies for the county. Both deputies are cur-

rently employed by the Greenville County Sheriff's Office.

The suit claimed there was insufficient probable cause for the deputies to make a charge of resisting arrest.

Also, the suit alleged that the deputies used excessive force in making the arrest, charging that Clark "grabbed her and pulled her out of a chair where she was seated, breaking her arm."

The suit also claimed that Ms. Carpenter suffered "severe physical and emotional damage" as a result of the deputies' conduct.

The case was settled by attorneys for Ms. Carpenter and the Insurance Reserve Fund before it was called in the Court of Common Pleas.

Henry said the suit was brought against the deputies on points of principle as much as for compensation. "This is an important case," he said. "It was very close to being tried."

Neither Henry nor defense attorney W. Howard Boyd would discuss the grounds or terms of the settlement.

"Obviously, it was just an amicable resolution of a dispute, and we were pleased to get it resolved," Boyd said. "But beyond that I really don't want to comment on the settlement."

The Insurance Reserve Fund office in Columbia hadn't been briefed on the settlement amount by Tuesday, officials said.