

Woman settles suit in husband's death for \$1.6M

Plumber was electrocuted in September 2005 while working at hotel building site in Manhattan

By FRANK DONNELLY
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posed live wires at The Andrews House, according to John G. O'Leary, the lawyer for Kasza's wife, Nili Tammy Perner Kasza.

The hotel at 197 Bowersy was undergoing renovations, Mrs. Kasza alleged in the lawsuit, filed in state Supreme Court, St. George.

The wife of a Tottenville plumber who was electrocuted at a single-room-occupancy hotel construction site in Manhattan has settled her wrongful death suit for \$1.6 million.

Edward Kasza, 37, was killed Sept. 15, 2005, when he came in contact with ex-

posed live wires at The Andrews House, according to John G. O'Leary, the lawyer for Kasza's wife, Nili Tammy Perner Kasza.

The hotel at 197 Bowersy was undergoing renovations, Mrs. Kasza alleged in the lawsuit, filed in state Supreme Court, St. George.

Kasza, an employee of Advanced Plumbing Enterprises Inc. in Maspeth, Queens, was installing a temporary toilet for laborers in a gutted section of the second floor, said O'Leary, of the West Brighton law firm O'Leary, McMahon & Spero. The plumber came in contact with live wires hanging from the ceiling.



KASZA: Tottenville resident, 37, was killed when he came into contact with live wires

Kasza was later pronounced dead at NYU Downtown Hospital.

"Our investigation revealed that an electrical outlet pulled out during the demolition phase of the construction project caused a short in the circuit, resulting in live wires left in the construction area," O'Leary said Friday.

The lawsuit alleged the owner and general contractor should have shut off the power to that area.

Mrs. Kasza, who sued individually and as administrator of her husband's estate, did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment.

Kasza, who had no children, was a lifelong Staten Is-

lander. Besides working for Advanced Plumbing, he owned and operated Redwood Tree Service and Landscaping, which he started from scratch and ran for 15 years out of his home, his stepson, Jonathan Perner, told the Advance. Kasza also was a licensed contractor, his family said.

Mrs. Kasza sued the building owner, the nonprofit Common Ground Community IV Housing Development Fund Corporation; the general contractor, ACC Construction Management Corporation; the electrical contractor, Breen Electrical Contractors Inc. and the

demolition contractor, Staten-wide Demolition Corp. of Maspeth.

Advanced Plumbing was brought in as a third-party defendant.

The settlement was reached before Justice Joseph J. Maltese.

O'Leary said the breakdown was as follows: \$900,000 was paid on behalf of Breen; \$600,000 on behalf of ACC Construction and \$50,000 each on behalf of Staten-wide Demolition and Advanced Plumbing.

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