

Antonio Brown furniture-tossing lawsuit: What we know, don't know

Jacob Klinger | jklinger@pennlive.com



PITTSBURGH — Antonio Brown is being sued by Ophir Sternberg and his then 22-month old son over allegations of furniture-tossing from high above a Miami, Fla., apartment, with Sternberg claiming that his son and his son's grandfather could have been killed if the objects fell a foot or two differently than they did.

TMZ first reported the news, which has grown as Tuesday has worn on with multiple police reports being reported on, and the apartment complex is also suing the Steelers star receiver for breach of lease.

Below is a breakdown of what we do and do not know about the lawsuits and what they may or may not mean for Brown's future.

What we know

Who: Ophir Sternberg

He is the adult plaintiff, who along with his son Amnon Sternberg, is suing Brown, accusing the Steelers receiver of throwing a pair of lamps, an ottoman and other furniture out an apartment window, nearly striking his son, Amnon.

Sternberg, according to his bio page on Lionheart Capital's website, was in the Israeli Defense Force, became an investment broker in New York, then founded a real estate investment and management company before moving to Miami and partnering to form Lionheart Capital, LLC. He is the CEO of the company.

"Mr. Brown's out of control and inexcusable behavior could have killed my son. His reckless tantrum displayed complete disregard for the safety of others," Ophir Sternberg said in a statement to ESPN. "We intend to hold Mr. Brown accountable, to hopefully ensure that something like this never happens again."

April 13

This is the date from which, according to TMZ, police obtained video of a cleaning crew entering Brown's apartment at The Mansions at Acqualina. According to TMZ, citing police reports, police spoke with a women who said they were hired and given the OK to clean the apartment by a representative of Brown.

Brown was away for 11 days at the time, according to TMZ, and called police about a handgun and \$80,000 when he returned.

The women police say they spoke with suggested other people who were in the apartment prior to Brown leaving could've taken the gun and money, according to TMZ. PennLive has yet to obtain this police report, though a request has been filed with the Sunny Isles Beach city clerk.

April 23

Brown called police and told them \$80,000 was missing from a tote bag hidden in his closet, according to TMZ, citing police reports. He also told them his nine millimeter handgun was missing, according to TMZ, citing police reports not yet obtained by PennLive.

April 24

Brown called police, upset at the apartment complex's security and yelling that he thought security staffers had set him up, according to the police report obtained by PennLive and embedded below:

Apparently when Mr. Brown got upset he started throwing things in the apartment and the coffee table glass was broken along with a few other minor objects," the police report reads. "He also threw some object from the balcony into the pool area causing minor damage there as well."

According to the police report:

		INCIDENT/INVESTIGATION REPORT						Case#	
Agency Name		Sunny Isles Beach Police Department						18-01044	
ORI		FL 0135100						Date / Time Reported	
Location of Incident		Premise Type			Zone/Tract			Last Known Securt	
17749 Collins Ave Apt. 1402, Sunny Isles Beach FL		Other Residence-other			ZNA			04/24/2018 10:08 Tue	
#1 Crime Incident(s)		Weapon / Tools						At Found	
Disturbance		NOT APPLICABLE						04/24/2018 10:08 Tue	
DIST03		Entry			Exit			Activity	
#2 Crime Incident		Weapon / Tools						Activity	
()		Entry			Exit			Security	
#3 Crime Incident		Weapon / Tools						Activity	
()		Entry			Exit			Security	
MO									
# of Victims		Type:		Injury:				Domestic: N	
0									
Victims/Business Name (Last, First, Middle)		Victim of Crime #		DOB		Race		Sex	
V1				Age				Relationship To Offender	
Home Address		Home Phone		Business Phone		Mobile Phone		Military Branch/Status	
Employer Name/Address		Business Phone		Mobile Phone		VIN			
VYR		Make		Model		Style		Color	
Lj/Lis		VIN							
CODES: V- Victim (Denote V2, V3) O - Owner (if other than victim) R - Reporting Person (if other than victim)									
Type: INDIVIDUAL/ NOT LAW ENFORCEMENT		Injury:							
Code		Name (Last, First, Middle)		Victim of Crime #		DOB		Race	
IO		BROWN, ANTONIO TAVARIS				07/10/1988		B M	
Home Address		Home Phone		Business Phone		Mobile Phone		Military Branch/Status	
17749 Collins Ave - 1402 Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160		305-397-4471						Resident	
Employer Name/Address		Business Phone		Mobile Phone					
NFL (ATHLETE)				786-651-8427					

After a conversation with a Sgt. Royal, in which the officer told Brown to call him directly with any questions rather than confronting the private security at the apartment, Brown told police there would not be any other incidents. A Mr. Whitley, the security director on-site, said he didn't want the police to take any action against Brown, but that the building would initiate an eviction.

The police report lists the time of the incidents described above as 10:08 a.m.

This is the same day which, according to the lawsuit filed by Ophir Sternberg, Brown threw a pair of vases and an ottoman out a window around 10:30 a.m. — some of which came within "a foot or two" of hitting Amnon Sternberg and his grandfather. Private security investigated and determined the objects came from Brown's Apt. 1402, according to the lawsuit, which states Brown was yelling at security personnel when police arrived.

(It is unclear if there were multiple calls made by police to the apartment complex or if the lawsuit or police incorrectly recorded the time of these alleged incidents).

The lawsuit was filed on Aug. 16.

The lawsuit filed by Acqualina – the apartment complex – was filed on Aug. 15. It accuses Brown of "destroying, damaging, defacing the premises, as well as furnishings, appliances and other personalty" belonging to Acqualina.

"The apartment was in shambles," George A. Minski, the lawyer representing the condo owner, said in a statement to ESPN.

"Mirrors were smashed, tables were destroyed, there were holes and damages to the walls. Countertops were lifted off the deck. The unit is furnished with leather couches and love seats, and there were burn holes and black magic markers. It looked like they had rumbled. We tried to resolve it amicably and it got nowhere so we filed a lawsuit."