

POLICE SAY WERSHE ATTACKED OVER TV

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Author: JOE SWICKARD Free Press Staff Writer

Richard Wershe Sr., the father of convicted cocaine dealer **Richard Wershe Jr .**, was beaten by another inmate after an argument over Sunday morning television, Wayne County Sheriff Robert Ficano said Monday.

But **Wershe** 's lawyer, William Bufalino II, said the attack was personal and that threats also were made against **Wershe** 's son.

He also said Ficano's account of the incident was "concocted to cover up" the sheriff's department's liability.

Ficano said **Wershe** and the other inmate argued over a television set in the day room of Ward 6 North of the new county jail and that **Wershe** unplugged the set. The other prisoner then hit **Wershe** , Ficano said.

"It was all very quick; it didn't last long at all," Ficano said.

Wershe , 44, suffered a broken jaw and collarbone and he is believed to have internal injuries. He was reported in fair condition Monday at Detroit Receiving Hospital.

Ficano would not name the other inmate, but people familiar with the incident said he is awaiting trial on charges of first-degree murder..

Wershe was in jail in lieu of a \$250,000 bond on federal charges of threatening an agent and possessing pistol silencers. Bufalino said **Wershe** will post the bond through a bonding company to avoid similar incidents.

Bufalino said the alleged television altercation "had nothing to do with" the fight.

He said **Wershe** was struck in the back of the head and regained consciousness to find himself bleeding and being propped against a wall.

"He was then told that they were 'going to get you and get your son,' " Bufalino said.

He said **Wershe** , who gave a series of interviews in which he claimed he and his son were paid federal informants, had asked to be placed in isolation when he was admitted to the jail after getting two general threats.

Ficano said **Wershe** was properly placed in a ward for adults awaiting felony trials.

Bufalino said **Wershe** will not press charges in the alleged assault.

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