

Claim filed for Paso school murder

The family of a woman raped and murdered at the El Paso de Robles School for Boys has filed a claim before the state Workmen's Compensation Appeals Board in Ventura County, charging "serious and willful misconduct" at the youth facility.

Attorney Richard Moomau of Oxnard, representing the family of Marie Romero, said the claim for a maximum \$55,000 in death benefits was filed Tuesday.

The basis of the claim, Moomau told the Telegram-Tribune, is a lack of security at the California Youth Authority facility in Paso Robles and a failure to provide a safe place to work.

Mrs. Romero, of San Luis Obispo, was raped and stomped to death in her classroom at the school about three weeks ago. She is survived by a husband, Patrick, and four children. Romero is a counselor at the California Men's colony.

The claim for benefits says the school failed to provide adult security in the classroom and in other parts of the school and also did not have an adequate communications system such as a personnel warning device.

An intensive investigation at the school has still not produced a suspect for the killing of the 51-year-old Mrs. Romero.