

Suit alleges Penfield substitute teacher severed boy's finger in door

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Rochester Democrat and Chronicle USA TODAY NETWORK

The family of a 6-year-old Penfield student is suing the school district after a substitute teacher allegedly cut off his pinkie finger by closing it in a door.

The boy is a student at Scribner Road Elementary School. One day last June, he was standing in line in the classroom when the teacher closed the door with the boy's little finger in the door frame near the hinges. It cut off about half the finger, the family's lawyer, Rich Plukas, said. Doctors were unable to reattach it.

"When you send your kid to school, you don't expect him to come home missing half a finger," Plukas said. "It's very unfortunate and I'm sure Penfield's unhappy about it."

Penfield schools spokeswoman Nancy Bradstreet wrote in an email: "While we can't comment on the specifics of pending litigation, we can tell you that the district is concerned for the health and welfare of all students and takes all student injuries very seriously."

The lawsuit in state Supreme Court accuses the school district of failing to properly screen, train and supervise the substitute teacher. Plukas did not elaborate on what sort of workplace training might serve to prevent such an incident, but said he's reviewing information the district has provided.

The boy's name was not released; the lawsuit is in the name of his father, Manuel Luque-Villalobos. The family declined to be interviewed.

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