

Mom sues city district in bullying case

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A lawsuit has been filed against the Rochester City School District claiming school officials failed to protect a thirdgrader from bullying.

The four-page filing names the pupil's mother as the plaintiff, but the girl is only identified as D.C. The Democrat and Chronicle Media Group is not naming the mother because doing so would likely identify the child.

District spokesman Chip Partner declined to comment because the district has not yet been served with the complaint, which was filed March 17 in state Supreme Court.

According to the fourpage court filing, the mother told school officials that her daughter was being bullied at school and she was initially "assured that the situation would be taken care of."

But the bullying continued, the suit claims. The girl stayed home from school at times by telling her mother that she was not feeling well because she was afraid to go to school, according to the suit.

On Feb. 14, 2014, in a gym class, after the teacher left the gym to talk on his phone, a girl called the plaintiff "ratchet" and poked her. The bully pushed the girl, causing her to hit her head "and split her eyebrow open," according to the suit.

D.C.'s grandfather picked her up and took her to the emergency department at Rochester General Hospital, where she was treated.

"The RCSD failed in its duty in that the bullying continued, despite numerous complaints by D.C.'s mother about the conduct," the suit claims.

"It was further negligent of the gym teacher to leave his class unsupervised while he took a phone call," the suit says.

Sanders did not specify exactly how much is being sought in damages, but it's more than \$15,000. Anything less than that would require filing in Rochester City Court, she said.

Sanders said the girl is now attending a different city school.

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