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SCHOOLS

Student with fractured skull, mother settle for \$200,000

The Miami-Dade County School Board agreed to pay \$100,000 apiece to a young boy and his mother for a head injury the boy suffered at his school. Joseph Seibert, then 6, was found at the bottom of a stairwell at Gateway Environment K-8 Learning Center in Homestead. Joseph has Down syndrome.

Plaintiff counsel contended Joseph should not have been allowed to be on his own. Counsel further contended Joseph was gone from his classroom for around 20 minutes before the teacher realized he was missing. Joseph was found only when someone discovered him covered in blood at the bottom of the stairwell. He suffered a depressed skull fracture, underwent surgery and remained in the hospital for one month.

Case: Izquierdo v. Miami-Dade County School Board

Case No.: Not filed

Plaintiff attorney: Hugo V. Alvarez, Alvarez & Barbara, Miami

Defense attorney: No attorney