

Fall From Therapy Mat Case Summary

The plaintiff, age thirty-two, was attending a physical therapy session at the defendant medical center. The plaintiff suffers from cerebral palsy related to a failed suicide attempt when she was a teenager and is confined to a wheelchair. The plaintiff's therapy at this session was being administered by a physical therapist, an employee of a therapy company working inside the medical center.

The plaintiff was placed on a therapy mat that was about twenty inches off the floor. The physical therapist was briefly called out of the therapy room. The plaintiff then fell from the therapy mat. She landed on her face and sustained a bruised chin and injuries to her face. The plaintiff alleged negligence in leaving her unattended. There had been three patients and three therapists in the room, but the plaintiff claimed that when her physical therapist left the room she was unattended.

The defendants argued that the plaintiff had not been left unattended in that her physical therapist had asked the other two therapists in the room to watch the plaintiff.

According to a report, a jury returned a \$7,628 verdict for the plaintiff against the therapy company only. A defense verdict was returned for the medical center.

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