

## **Teen sues after sexual assault in foster home**

**December 3, 2013 - Ryan Cormier, Edmonton Journal**

**EDMONTON - A 15-year-old girl has launched a \$1.15-million lawsuit after she was sexually assaulted by the biological son of the Edmonton foster family she was placed with.**

**The girl, who cannot be identified, is suing both the foster family and Metis Child and Family Services, who placed her with the family in March 2004, when she was five. She remained with the family for two years and three months.**

**After her stay, the girl disclosed that she had been sexually assaulted, according to a recently filed statement of claim.**

**The lawsuit states that the girl “suffered and continues to suffer significant and extreme psychological distress and trauma from the protracted and repeated abuse” by the son, who she saw as “an older trusted brother” or uncle.**

**She now suffers from low self-esteem, anxiety, shame, guilt, depressions, feelings of worthlessness and an inability to enter intimate personal relationships, according to the claim.**

**The foster parents negligently failed to detect or prevent the sexual misconduct, the girl alleges. Likewise, Metis and Child Family Services is accused of negligence for “failing to take reasonable steps to ensure the plaintiff’s well-being would be protected during the course of the placement in the foster home.”**

**Court records show that the son, then 20, was convicted in May 2007 of sexual contact with a minor for abusing the girl over a 16-month period that began shortly after he turned 18. He was given an 18-month sentence to be served in the community.**

**Statements of claim contain allegations not proven in court.**

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