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Court Rejects Nebraska Appeal of Award in Beatrice Hospital Abuse Case

BEATRICE, Neb. (AP) - A judge has denied the state of Nebraska's motion for a retrial in the case of a former Beatrice hospital patient who was awarded damages following negligent treatment.

Gage County District Court Judge Paul Korslund rejected the motion Tuesday and upheld the \$150,000 award in Ian Ham's case.

Assistant Attorney General Michael Rumbaugh had argued that there was not a sufficient basis for the amount of money awarded. But the state did not dispute that a doctor at the Beatrice State Developmental Center was negligent for failing to properly examine Ham in 2008.

Ham's mother filed a lawsuit in 2009. Korslund ruled in favor of Ham and his mother in July.

Ham was among the nearly 50 "medically fragile" people later moved from the center.

Associated Press