



Thursday, August 26, 2010

Guards allegedly beat inmate in Sangamon Juvenile Ce

BY PATRICK YEAGLE



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"They out of the classroom and slammed him into the wall," McDermott says. "He was handcuffed, and they kned him while he was in the hallway."

As a result of the beating, Dalton received a concussion, a fractured neck and internal bleeding, according to medical records from the state detention center in St. Charles, awaiting assignment to another state detention center.

Springfield attorney Dan Fultz, who represented Dalton in his criminal trial, says the youth was never violent toward him, but he was violent toward other juvenile inmates and with guards.

Jeff McDermott says this isn't the first time his son has had trouble with the guards at the Sangamon County Juvenile Center. "He was allegedly beaten inside his cell during a run-in with the same two guards," McDermott says.

"He had marks on him, but I figured he was just mouthy, and they might have just wrestled with him a bit," McDermott says. "I thought they send these two guys to rough them up."

It's also not the first time Dalton has had trouble with the law. He had previously been sent to drug rehab after throwing milk at a teacher and was on the run for four months before turning himself in.

Barb Howell and Jeff McDermott say they would like the Sangamon Juvenile Center to fire the two guards allegedly involved in the beating.

"I don't care if my kid has a smart mouth or he does have a problem," McDermott says. "[The guards] are supposed to be trained to handle these kids."

kids in there, you cannot have these guys pushing the envelope and hurting kids.”

The case also highlights a quirk in Illinois law that allows information on incidents like this to be withheld from the public. Sangamon County Juvenile Center, denied an Illinois Times request for evidence related to the alleged beating. As the agency exemption from the state’s Freedom of Information Act because of past court cases that seem to allow courts to avoid public incident as probation records, which would further exempt them from FOIA. Sangamon County Court Services Department d Attorney General Lisa Madigan rules on the Freedom of Information Act review.

McDermott and Howell say they will seek restitution through a lawsuit. Springfield attorney Sara Mayo is representing the family to the facts in the case because she has yet to receive any evidence from the Sangamon County Juvenile Center.

Contact Patrick Yeagle at pyeagle@illinoistimes.com.

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