

## **Family to sue district for negligence - Detroit school failed to protect girl, who was raped, father says**

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DETROIT -- The family of a 12-year-old girl allegedly raped in a Detroit school last week was expected to file a gross-negligence lawsuit today against the school district.

"The school has failed in their responsibility in assuring each and every student that they will be safe," said the victim's father, whom The Detroit News is not naming to avoid revealing his daughter's identity.

The lawsuit, to be filed in Wayne Circuit Court, names the Detroit Public Schools Board of Education, Hutchins Middle School Principal Virginia Clay and the victim's Spanish teacher as defendants. The teacher was not identified by name on Wednesday.

The victim told police she was in Spanish class at about 11:15 a.m. May 1 when two students came to the class and said another teacher wanted to see the girl. The students did not display a hall pass or note requesting the girl be removed from class, the lawsuit alleges.

The students took the girl to an empty fourth-floor room, where she was raped in a crawl space, according to a police report.

The lawsuit, which seeks more than \$25,000 in damages, also alleges negligence by the school principal and various teachers for not protecting the girl from bullies in the school. The girl's father has said that 15-year-old Dominique Brown, who allegedly held the girl down as 15-year-old **Audi Drew Dawson** raped her, had routinely verbally and physically assaulted his daughter. Brown and **Dawson** are both charged with first-degree criminal sexual conduct involving a victim younger than 13, which brings a possible life sentence if convicted.

Hutchins school officials "were aware of the need to protect (the) minor from physical altercations, intimidation and injury due to the prior occurrence of violence and acts of intimidation as perpetrated by fellow students," the lawsuit states.

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