

Hypoglycemic Episode: School Nurse Ruled Not Guilty Of Negligence.

The young diabetic student had an individual health plan. His daily blood sugar testing was to start at 10:00 a.m.

On the day in question his 10:00 a.m. blood sugar level was 40 mg/dl, outside the 80-100 mg/dl level that was considered normal for him. The teacher notified the school nurse.

The nurse came and gave him a glucose gel tube and, as the mother had previously requested, phoned the mother about the low blood-sugar reading. The nurse also had him eat a snack of milk and crackers. By 10:30 a.m. his blood sugar was 56 mg/dl and by 10:55 it was 149 mg/dl. The rest of the day passed uneventfully.

The parents later sued the school district claiming their son had had a diabetic seizure at school that day and that the school nurse was responsible.

The Court of Appeals of Iowa approved a jury's verdict finding no liability. There was no evidence of any negligence committed by the school nurse.

Furthermore, the evidence from the parents' child psychologist was inconclusive the boy had suffered cognitive decline or psychological pathology that could be linked to a diabetic hypoglycemic episode. Gray v. Council Bluffs Community School Dist., 2006 WL 3313947 (Iowa App., November 16, 2006).

There is no suspicious inference to be drawn from the records having been destroyed at the end of the school year.

That was standard school district practice.

COURT OF APPEALS OF IOWA
November 16, 2006
