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Aldridge v. South Tippah County School District

Court of Appeals of Mississippi - August 20, 2024 - So.3d - 2024 WL 3870492

Mother of minor student brought negligence action against high school district for injuries he sustained when he was stabbed in locker room while coach was in gym.

The Circuit Court granted district's motion for summary judgment. Mother appealed.

The Court of Appeals held that coach had no duty to be present in locker room while students were changing into their practice attire.

Statute addressing educators' responsibilities to hold pupils to strict account for disorderly conduct, state educator ethics code, and basketball coach's usual procedure for supervising his classroom did not create duty for coach to be present in locker room while students were changing into their practice attire, and, thus, his failure to follow his usual practice of staying in locker room did not establish breach of duty by school district to provide appropriate supervision, in mother's negligence action against district for injuries sustained by student who was stabbed by another student; students were friends, neither coach nor district had notice of animosity between students or reason to believe that altercation between them would occur, and no one knew that other student had knife.

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