

Negligence and Tort

Student suffers spinal injury, paralysis in campus shooting

\$13 million settlement



AZKOUL

The plaintiff, a Michigan State University student, was injured during an on-campus shooting on the evening of Feb. 13, 2023. He later learned that he suffered a spinal cord injury at T7-8, resulting in permanent paralysis.

The timely filed 2023 Notice of Intention to File Claim and Notice of Injury and Defect in Public Building set forth claims based on Article 1, Section 17, of the Michigan Constitution, which guarantees the substantive due process right to bodily integrity; the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution (through 42 USC Section 1983); MCL

691.1406 (negligence arising out of the failure to repair and maintain a public building); MCL 691.1413 (negligence arising out of the performance of a proprietary function); and gross negligence.

Suit was never filed. The parties, through their legal counsel, entered into settlement negotiations, and the claim settled in mediation.

Plaintiff's counsel provided the case information.

Action: Negligence and tort

Injuries alleged: Spinal cord injury, paraplegia and other permanent injuries

Case name: Hao v. Michigan State University

Amount: \$13 million (plus waiver of tuition, room and board, and provision of health insurance, during undergraduate and graduate school attendance at MSU)

Date: April 28, 2025

Attorney for plaintiff: William M. Azkoul, Gruel Mills Nims & Pylman, Grand Rapids