

DSHS settlements and jury verdicts over \$1 million

Since 1993, the State Department of Social and Health Services has paid \$118 million in jury verdicts and settlements. With 18,000 employees and an \$8 billion annual budget, the agency provides medical, social and income assistance to the young, old and disabled. Liability-laden programs include protective services for abused children, foster care and juvenile rehabilitation.

CASE	OK BOYS RANCH VS. DSHS	DAMON BECKMAN VS. DSHS	LINDA DAVID VS. DSHS	TERRYLEE WISMAN VS. DSHS	JOHN HERRING VS. DSHS	JUANA VASQUEZ VS. DSHS
PAYOUT	\$21.7 million	\$18.87 million*	\$8.8 million	\$2.25 million	\$2 million	\$1.76 million
DETAILS	<p>▶ About 35 boys were molested and physically assaulted at the state orphanage for troubled foster boys in Olympia. The case was broken into four lawsuits for each generation of boys abused from 1977-94.</p>	<p>▶ Three severely developmentally disabled men were sexually abused by the owner of a state-licensed group home. The state missed a crucial deadline to appeal the record-setting jury verdict.</p>	<p>▶ David was beaten for years and held captive by her husband, Victor David, on a rotting 30-foot sailboat while DSHS paid him to be her caregiver. He was convicted of second-degree assault.</p>	<p>▶ Wisman, a young developmentally disabled man, was raped repeatedly by his caregiver, Claude Dean Ferger, in a state-licensed adult family home in Spokane. Ferger was convicted of rape.</p>	<p>▶ Herring, who is blind and has a speech impediment, claimed his DSHS supervisor discriminated against him because of his disabilities.</p>	<p>▶ Vasquez said when she spoke out about DSHS's mishandling of the Wenatchee sex ring cases, she was mistreated and fired because of her prior lawsuit against the agency for race discrimination.</p>
ATTORNEY	John R. Connelly Jr.	David P. Moody	David P. Moody	David P. Moody	John Cain	Steven C. Lacy
CLOSED	Dec. 1995-Jan. 2001	October 12, 2000	August 29, 2000	December 1, 2000	June 24, 1996	June 17, 1998
CASE	R. STEVENSON VS. DSHS	SHEILA POWELL VS. DSHS	TARIQ AHMED VS. DSHS	D. HUTTON VS. DSHS	SHARP ET AL VS. WESTON-DSHS	C. WILLIAMS VS. DSHS
PAYOUT	\$1.75 million	\$1.5 million	\$1.5 million	\$1.26 million	\$1.2 million	\$1 million
DETAILS	<p>▶ Former Seattle Fire Department Captain Stanley Stevenson was stabbed to death by newly released schizophrenic Dan Van Ho. The murderer had been evaluated at Western State Hospital.</p>	<p>▶ Lenwood McCullum fled a state-licensed minimum-security home in Tacoma and later shot his pregnant 18-year-old girlfriend. Their infant survived. He was convicted of second-degree murder.</p>	<p>▶ In this employee discrimination case, Dr. Tariq Ahmed, the primary-care physician at the Rainier School for the disabled, claimed he was fired for criticizing the school's medical care.</p>	<p>▶ Two young sisters were sexually assaulted by another foster child in a DSHS-licensed foster home in Seattle. The teen responsible was convicted of rape.</p>	<p>▶ Sex predators held indefinitely at the DSHS-run Special Commitment Center said the state failed to provide them with mental health treatment and kept them in substandard conditions.</p>	<p>▶ Two young sisters sexually abused by their grandfather said Child Protective Services had conducted a negligent investigation into their abuse allegations. He was convicted of rape.</p>
ATTORNEY	Jenny A. Durkan	John R. Connelly Jr.	Richard Wooster	Peter T. Connick	Felix Luna	Hal Hodgins
CLOSED	June 4, 2001	April 17, 2002	June 19, 2002	February 19, 2003	September 2, 1998	February 24, 2003

*Includes interest

Source: State Office of Risk Management

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER