

Dog bite victim will receive settlement

BY JARRAD HEDES

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A Fairfield couple will receive a \$300,000 settlement after their daughter was attacked by a neighbor's pit bull, according to the family's lawyer.

"This is, by any stretch, a significant amount of money to come away with in an Adams County setting," said Thomas Newell, the attorney who filed a civil lawsuit in Adams County on behalf of Brooke-Ann's parents, Andrew and Melissa Boyd.

Brooke-Ann Boyd, who was 6 years old at the time, walked to her neighbor's house, owned by Richard and Joyce Sprouse, in April 2011 and was told to let herself in, according to court

documents.

Newell's complaint alleged that the Sprouse's male pit bull, Chaos, came through the front door and attacked Brooke-Ann, leading to the partial amputation of her nose.

The settlement was approved Tuesday in Adams County Court.

"She has been through a lot and the thought is that this will cover her college expenses," Newell said earlier this week. "My clients are extremely happy and I think equally important is that not a penny will be paid out of the pocket of the Sprouse family. Their insurance company has stepped up

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to the plate and agreed to cover this amount. We're considering this a win-win."

Newell said the \$300,000 settlement was the maximum possible in this particular case.

"Of the \$300,000, the family will net \$287,650," Newell said.

Lump sum payouts will be made when Brooke-Ann is 18-21, according to Newell.

"We know college expenses are only going to go up," Newell added. "Brooke-Ann is 9 years old right now and we're now certain, by getting the maximum amount, that this payout will put her through the college. It's taking a negative and turning it into a positive."

Brooke-Ann has had 23 hyperbaric oxygen treatment therapy sessions and the attack also required facial reconstruction surgery. During emergency surgery at Meritus Medical Center, surgeons re-attached a portion of her nose found on the Sprouse's porch.

The Sprouse family voluntarily put down Chaos a week after the incident.

Richard Sprouse was charged with unlawful confinement and harboring a dangerous dog. He was fined close to \$300.

"The last thing we want to do is bleed a neighbor dry and that's why it's a positive thing that the insurance company is going to take care of this," Newell said.