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SCHOOL SUED OVER STRIP-SEARCH OF STUDENT

DANIELLE T. FURFARO Staff writer

The mother of a 16-year-old boy is suing the Schenectady school district, alleging that the high school's assistant principal, Kenneth Newman, stuck his hand into the boy's underwear and then forced him to strip during a search for drugs. The search did not turn up any drugs.

The suit seeks \$2 million and says the incident, which took place in front of a hall monitor, caused the boy ``psychological distress, humiliation, embarrassment and fear."

According to the suit, the boy was standing in front of Schenectady High School with a group of other students before the school day on Oct. 30, 2001, when they were approached by Newman, who accused the group of taking part in illegal activity. He then took the students to the nurse's office, where he allegedly put his hand in the boy's underwear, told the boy to strip and then searched him again.

Elmer Robert **Keach III**, who is representing the plaintiff, said that since he filed the suit on Thursday, another former student came forward to say that he had a similar experience with Newman.

The suit names the Schenectady City School District, Newman, high school Principal Van Alois, Superintendent John Falco and the unnamed hall monitor. It also alleges that the Schenectady Police Department is at fault for instructing Newman on how to conduct a strip-search, but the Police Department is not named as a defendant in the suit.

Falco referred all questions to the district's attorney, Anjo McTague, who did not return calls for comment.

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