

VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

\$2.7 MILLION SETTLEMENT (OUT OF STATE)

Children abused while in aunt's care reach settlement

By Scott Lauck



Reed Martens

Five children who were abused while in the care of a relative reached a \$2.7 million settlement, according to their attorney.

Reed Martens of Monsees & Mayer said the children's mother was trying to establish a stable home and had entrusted them to their great aunt starting in 2007. The great aunt's adult son also lived in the home.

The children's suit alleged that the aunt failed to properly supervise her son or the children, which allowed him to sexually assault, abuse and harass the minor victims. Martens said he would watch them in the shower, make inappropriate sexual comments, grab them underneath their clothes in their private areas, and sexually harass and assault them.

The abuse continued over the course of seven years. In 2015, the son sexually assaulted and raped two of the children. Once the mother learned of the sexual abuse of her children, it was reported to the authorities. According to Martens, the son was criminally charged and

pleaded guilty to three counts of aggravated criminal sodomy, rape and aggravated indecent liberties with a child.

Martens said the children suffered pain of mind and body, shock, emotional distress, physical manifestations of emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, disgrace, humiliation and loss of enjoyment of life. The settlement will help pay for medical and psychological treatment, therapy and counseling.

PERSONAL INJURY

Venue: Wyandotte County, Kansas, District Court

Case Number/Date: Confidential/Aug. 1, 2021

Caption: Confidential

Plaintiffs' Attorney:

Reed Martens, Monsees & Mayer, Kansas City

Defendants' Attorneys:

Confidential