Parents of Girl Killed by Puck Receive $1.2 Million

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The family of a girl killed by a hockey puck at a pro game split $1.2 million from a settlement reached with the National Hockey League and other groups, according to a copy of the settlement made public Wednesday.

The settlement approved in February 2003 by Preble County Probate Judge Wilfrid Dues resolved requests for damages from the family of Brittanie Cecil, 13, who was struck during a Columbus Blue Jackets game in 2002. It was the first such fatality in NHL history and prompted the league to require that every team hang netting to prevent injuries from flying pucks.

Dues released the settlement after the Ohio Supreme Court ruled 6-1 Wednesday in favor of WBNS-TV, which had sued for details of the award.

Any record a judge uses to make a decision, such as approval of a settlement, is subject to the state public records law, the court said. "We have not authorized courts or other records custodians to create new exceptions" to the law, justices said.

The settlement with the NHL, the Blue Jackets and Nationwide Arena, where the team plays, provided $705,000 to Jody Sergent, the girl's mother, and $470,000 to David Cecil, the girl's father. The family stopped short of filing a lawsuit, according to the settlement.

Brittanie's brother and sister were included in the settlement, Chappars said. The family's attorneys received an additional $538,000, the settlement said. It also included $13,000 for funeral expenses.

Analysis Questions:

1. Think of a party that was not named in this settlement. Why, in your opinion, should they be included.