



FRANCOEUR LAW OFFICE

100 TradeCenter, Suite G700
Woburn, MA 01801
781-569-5369
F: 781-240-8487
Laurel@FrancoeurLaw.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 24, 2017

LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST PARTNERS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, INC. d/b/a THE CLUBS AT CHARLES RIVER PARK FOR DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION AGAINST FAMILY WITH CHILD WITH FOOD ALLERGIES

Boston, MA – Last week, Paul Anthony Campbell, along with his wife Erin Brazil and 6 year-old son, filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts against Partners Healthcare Systems, Inc. (“Partners”) which owns the Massachusetts General Hospital and the Clubs at Charles River Park. The suit alleges that Partners violated the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act and Massachusetts Anti-Discrimination Laws when they failed to allow a family with a child with life-threatening food allergies to re-enroll in their summer pool/cabana program at the Clubs at Charles River Park (“the Clubs”). The family have been using the Clubs for ten years without incident. However, the family was the target of malicious acts from third parties who put peanut shells in their personal space and smeared peanut butter on their 6 year old child’s toys. The family recently complained about these instances and asked for reasonable accommodations to keep their child safe. The Clubs refused their requests, concerned more about the aesthetics of the Clubs than the safety of the child. The Clubs began the process of re-enrolling the family for the 2017 summer season, but an antagonistic manager named Cliff Seeto quickly revoked the offer. The reasons cited for the revocation were incidental and merely served as a cover for their discriminatory decision. The family is seeking permission to use the premises again this summer as they have for the past 10 years and is seeking damages for emotional distress. “This family has been a pillar of the community – they have organized events to the benefit of the club and are well-liked among the other club members. All they want is to continue to enjoy their summer space as they have in the past. It is disgraceful that Partners has decided to kick them out rather than working with them to come to a resolution,” said Laurel Francoeur, attorney for the family. Erin Brazil said, “Our son looks forward to his time swimming at The Club and playing with his summer friends- he talks about it all year long. He is devastated at the thought of not being able to return along with the rest of his neighborhood friends. He feels like he is being punished because of his food allergies.”

Francoeur Law Office is a general law practice with a focus on food allergy-related issues. Laurel Francoeur is the author of “How to Advocate for Your Food Allergic Child: A Manual for Getting What Your Child Needs at School” and co-author of the “Preschool Food Allergy Handbook.”

###