

**IN THE CIRCUIT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**G.M., a Minor, by and through his
Mother and Legal Guardian, D.T.**

CASE NO.:

Plaintiff,

v.

**CITY OF DELAND a Governmental
Municipality; and
VOLUSIA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
a Governmental Entity.**

Defendants.

_____ /

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, **G.M.**, a minor, by and through his Mother and Legal Guardian, **D.T.**, an individual, by and through the undersigned counsel, and hereby sues the Defendants, **CITY OF DELAND**, a Florida Municipality, and **VOLUSIA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**, a Political Subdivision of the State of Florida and alleges the following:

1. This is an action for damages that exceeds Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), exclusive of interest, costs and attorneys' fees.
2. This is an action brought for the negligence in which Defendants subjected Plaintiff to, among other things, excessive force, false arrest/imprisonment, and retaliation.

3. Before bringing this action, Plaintiff, G.M., has complied with all condition precedent, including timely written notice to the municipality named herein as Defendant, CITY OF DELAND (hereinafter “CITY”) and VOLUSIA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD (hereinafter “VCSB”).

4. The Plaintiff, G.M., a Minor, is a natural person residing in Deland, Volusia County, Florida, and his Mother and Legal Guardian, D.T., is over the age of majority.

5. At all times material to this action, the Plaintiff, G.M., a Minor, by and through his Mother and Legal Guardian, D.T., were and are residing together and enjoying the family relationship.

6. At all times material to this action, Defendant, CITY, was and still is a governmental entity existing under the laws of the State of Florida which Ryan Riedinger was employed as a law enforcement officer.

7. At all times material to this action, Defendant, VCSB, was and still is a public school board of the State of Florida, which Ryan Riedinger was employed as a School Resource Officer.

8. On or about September 12, 2023, G.M., a middle school aged student with a learning disability and autism was in attendance at DeLand Middle School. He was restrained and handcuffed by Ryan Riedinger. Ryan Riedinger used unreasonable force on G.M. while he was laying on the ground causing bodily injury.

Further, G.M. suffered scarring on his wrists from the placement of the handcuffs. No treatment or aid was rendered to G.M.

9. Subsequent to the incident, G.M. was left alone with Ryan Riedinger, who further harassed G.M., telling him that he was going to jail.

10. VCSB failed to follow the behavior plan for G.M. and allowed Ryan Riedinger to cause emotional distress.

11. VCSB has ownership, possession, and control DeLand Middle School. As operators of the school, it was charged with the custody, care, and control of minor children, including G.M., and it had a duty to protect minor children's safety and well-being.

COUNT 1 FALSE IMPRISONMENT – VCSB & CITY

12. Plaintiff realleges Paragraphs 1-11, as if fully set forth herein, and states additionally or alternatively:

13. At all times mentioned herein, Defendants employed Ryan Riedinger and he was acting within the scope of his employment.

14. Defendants' agents falsely imprisoned G.M. in contravention of his behavior plan and VCSB's protocols.

15. Defendants' agents knew or should have known that they did not have authority to restrain G.M. in an unreasonable manner.

16. At all times material to this incident, Plaintiff was not free to leave and was held against his will.

17. As a result of the aforesaid conduct by Defendants' agents, Plaintiff was subjected to an illegal, improper, and false imprisonment by the aforementioned Defendant and caused Plaintiff to be falsely imprisoned, detained, and confined, without any probable cause, privilege, or consent.

18. As a result of the foregoing, Plaintiff was falsely imprisoned on September 12, 2023, and held in a VCSB room, where he remained illegally detained for over two hours until he was released, suffered physical pain and mental anguish, together with shock, fright, apprehension, embarrassment, and humiliation, and loss of liberty and freedom.

19. As a direct and proximate result of these violations of Plaintiff's constitutional rights, he was made to suffer great emotional trauma, discomfort and embarrassment, was deprived of his liberty. Plaintiff demands all relief that is just and equitable, including compensatory damages and costs.

COUNT 2 NEGLIGENCE – VCSB & CITY

20. Plaintiff realleges Paragraphs 1-11, as if fully set forth herein, and states additionally or alternatively:

21. At all times material to this incident, VCSB, had a duty to take reasonable measures for the protection of Plaintiff, a middle school student, against harm, including assault, improper restraints, and batteries from school employees.

22. VCSB breached its duty to G.M., by the following commissions and omissions:

a. failing to take appropriate precautions to prevent such harm as that which occurred to G.M. by the School Resource Officer, Ryan Riedinger;

b. failing to implement the behavior plan as outlined specifically for G.M.;

c. failing to notify D.T. of her son's injuries immediately;

d. failing to implement proper safeguards and procedures for school resource officers; and

e. failing to adequately address G.M.'s behavioral issues that resulted in an improper battery, assault, and restraint.

23. Such negligent acts and omissions of the Defendant, VCSB, were the direct and proximate cause of the damages suffered by Plaintiff, G.M., to-wit: bodily injury and resulting pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, severe emotional distress and anguish, humiliation and embarrassment, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, medical care and treatment. Said injuries are either permanent or continuing in nature and Plaintiff, G.M., will suffer losses and impairments in the future.

COUNT 3 NEGLIGENCE – CITY

24. Plaintiff realleges Paragraphs 1-11, as if fully set forth herein, and states additionally or alternatively:

25. At all times material to this incident, CITY, had a duty to take reasonable measures for the protection of Plaintiff, a middle school student, against harm, including assault, improper restraints, and batteries from school employees.

26. CITY breached its duty to G.M., by the following commissions and omissions:

a. failing to take appropriate precautions to prevent such harm as that which occurred to G.M. by the School Resource Officer, Ryan Riedinger;

b. failing to require its School Resource Officer to follow the behavior plan as outlined for G.M.;

c. failing to notify D.T. of her son's injuries immediately;

d. failing to implement proper safeguards and procedures for school resource officers.

27. Such negligent acts and omissions of the Defendant, CITY, were the direct and proximate cause of the damages suffered by Plaintiff, G.M., to-wit: bodily injury and resulting pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, severe emotional distress and anguish, humiliation and embarrassment, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, medical care and treatment. Said injuries are either permanent or

continuing in nature and Plaintiff, G.M., will suffer losses and impairments in the future.

COUNT 4 ASSAULT – VCSB & CITY

28. Plaintiff realleges Paragraphs 1-11, as if fully set forth herein, and states additionally or alternatively:

29. At all times mentioned herein, Ryan Riedinger's conduct was within the scope of his employment.

30. Defendants, employee Ryan Riedinger, placed Plaintiff in apprehension of imminent harmful and offensive bodily contact and injury when he forcibly jumped on him while he was laying on the ground and then threatened to take him to jail.

30. Defendants' employee Ryan Riedinger, had the present apparent ability to carry out Plaintiff's arrest and acted with malice by:

- a. keeping the minor child restrained in a room for over 2 hours;
- b. causing an offensive touching because Plaintiff was experiencing a mental health crisis;
- c. telling Plaintiff he was going to jail even though he hadn't confirmed with the school administration the actions that would result;
- d. placing Plaintiff in handcuffs for an unlawful purpose.

31. Defendants permitted Ryan Riedinger to use an excessive and unnecessary degree of force against Plaintiff while restraining him without legal authority or privilege.

32. Defendants' employee placed Plaintiff in apprehension of imminent harmful and offensive bodily contact and injury by forcibly jumping on him while he was laying on the and body and causing instant pain.

33. Plaintiff did not consent to being placed in apprehension of imminent harmful or offensive bodily contact.

34. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct alleged above, Plaintiff was made to suffer great emotional trauma, discomfort and embarrassment, was deprived of his liberty, serious bodily injury, physical pain, mental anguish, and incurred medical bills. Plaintiff demands all relief that is just and equitable, including compensatory and punitive damages and costs.

COUNT 5 NEGLIGENT SUPERVISION – VCSB & CITY

35. Plaintiff realleges Paragraphs 1-11, as if fully set forth herein, and states additionally or alternatively:

36. At all times material to this incident, the Defendants had a duty to take reasonable measures for the protection of Minor Plaintiff, a student, against harm, including assaults, battery, and improper restraints and to provide reasonable supervision over its employees.

37. Defendants breached their duty to G.M., by the following commissions and omissions:

- a. failing to take appropriate precautions to prevent such harm as that which occurred to G.M. by the School Resource Officer, Ryan Riedinger; and
- b. failing to require its School Resource Officer to follow the behavior plan as outlined for G.M.; and
- c. failing to notify D.T. of her son's injuries immediately; and
- d. failing to implement proper safeguards and procedures for school resource officers; and
- e. negligently failing to supervise Ryan Riedinger and/or provide standards for such personnel to prevent harm to Plaintiff.

38. Such negligent acts and omissions of the Defendant, CITY, were the direct and proximate cause of the damages suffered by Plaintiff, G.M., to-wit: bodily injury and resulting pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, severe emotional distress and anguish, humiliation and embarrassment, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, medical care and treatment. Said injuries are either permanent or continuing in nature and Plaintiff, G.M., will suffer losses and impairments in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, **G.M.**, demands judgment for damages in excess of Fifty-Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), attorney's fees, costs, and prejudgment

interest, against Defendants, **CITY** and **VCSB** and other such relief deemed proper by the Court. Plaintiff also demands a jury trial on all issues so triable.

RESPECTFULLY submitted this 12th day of September, 2025.



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