



Dad sues Michigan, Flint officials over lead poisoning of daughter

By Paul Roberts / February 9, 2016

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Flint, MI, United States (4E) – A father whose daughter was allegedly poisoned by lead from Flint’s drinking water supply sued officials of the city and the state of Michigan on Monday.

Flint resident Luke Waid filed the lawsuit before a federal court in Michigan’s Eastern District seeking compensation for injuries, damages and losses suffered by his two-year-old daughter from drinking lead-contaminated water that was sourced from the Flint River beginning on April 25, 2014.

The first individual, non-class action lawsuit involving the lead contamination of Flint’s water supply also demanded that the defendants, including Gov . Rick Snyder, former Flint emergency manager Darnell Earley and former Flint Mayor Dayne Walling, pay for medical monitoring and future costs of medical care from injuries his daughter sustained through exposure to the city’s contaminated water system.

Detroit-based law firm McKeen & Associates and New York law firms Napoli Shkolnik PLLC and Slater Slater Schulman LLP are representing the family in the lawsuit. The law firms have handled lead poisoning cases.

“Even when these officials knew of a lead problem, they failed to act, thus resulting in an epidemic of lead poisoning,” said Brian McKeen , managing partner of McKeen & Associates, at a Monday press conference, according to Detroit Free Press. “This child is but one of literally thousands of Flint residents who’ve been affected. ... They, like any parent have suffered tremendous anguish knowing that their child has been poisoned and faces an uncertain medical and developmental future.”

The child has experienced serious physical and emotional issues, skin rashes, digestive problems, infections, excessive crying and irritability and the inability to sleep at night due to the contaminated water, according to the lawsuit.

Sophia’s blood lead levels tested at 14, nearly thrice the safe level, according to the family. Waid said he is worried of his daughter’s brain development. Lead exposure in children under 6 can damage organs, slow development, lead to learning and behavioral problems, and more.

Flint’s drinking water became contaminated with lead in April 2014 after the city switched its water supply source to the Flint River to cut cost.

The state Department of Environmental Quality failed to require the addition of needed corrosion-control chemicals on the pipes used to get water from the river. As a result, lead from the pipes corroded, leached and contaminated the water supply.

The state has told residents not to drink the water without filtering. The FBI is now investigating the contamination of Flint’s drinking water amid a growing public outcry.