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Every boy responsible in baseball-bat attack

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It doesn't matter who swung the baseball bat that beat Ric Jedrzewski unconscious, or knocked out his windows during a fight between students from Salt Lake City's East and West high schools in 2001.

The entire group of boys who allegedly hatched a plan to attack East students rumored to be attending a party at the Jedrzewski home can be held responsible, the Utah Supreme Court ruled Tuesday.

The Jedrzewskis filed a lawsuit against the boys, alleging they were part of a civil conspiracy.

"Civil conspiracy has been part of our law for a long, long time and it provides that what you conspire to be done is your responsibility," said the Jedrzewski's attorney, Richard Burbidge.

Defense attorneys contended Utah's Liability Reform Act meant the boys who did not participate in the property damage or assault couldn't be held to the same standard of liability as those who did. The high court left questions about how to allocate fault in future cases up to lawmakers.

"They essentially punted the ball," said attorney Stephen Trayner, who represented one of the boys.

The case stems from a series of fights between students from the rival schools in 2001. On Nov. 2, a group of West students allegedly hatched a plan to attack East students rumored to be attending a party at the home of Ric and Teresa Jedrzewski.

The group allegedly smashed in windows, forced open doors and screamed obscenities. Ric Jedrzewski was beaten unconscious with a bat and family guest Alexandra Wand was struck, according to the lawsuit the Jedrzewskis and Wand filed against all members of the group.

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