

# Province expected to accept some liability in child abuse case

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The provincial government has indicated it will consent to liability in a civil case involving shocking child abuse.



Lawyer Geoff Budden

The case was set over to Sept. 17 in Newfoundland and Labrador Supreme Court today to iron out terms.

St. John's lawyer Geoff Budden's firm is representing the Jane Doe in the case.

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Budden filed the lawsuit claiming the government was negligent in 2013.

The abuse case came to light in 2004 and involved siblings of a Clarke's Beach family which had been involved with case workers for years.

The case ended up in criminal court and was also the subject of a lengthy investigation by the provincial child, youth and family advocate.

The mother received several years' federal prison time in 2005.

The province, in its statement of defence, said regional health authorities were responsible for child, youth and family services prior to fall 2011.

Lawyer David Rodgers indicated in court today the liability that government intends to accept relates to certain events in the 1990s before child welfare was handed to Eastern Health.

Justice Carl Thompson heard the application in which Budden had asked for an expedited trial. However if liability is accepted the lawyers would then negotiate settlement.