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Editorial: Where's the justice?

Another day, another \$10 million legal settlement for high-powered plaintiffs' attorney Thomas R. Kline.

Kline has won a number of eight-figure awards for clients injured or killed due to negligence or incompetence by businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit health-care providers.

The latest settlement ends a lawsuit brought on behalf of Omega Leach, a 17-year-old boy who died while in the care of the city's Department of Human Services.

The settlement provides Leach's family with a financial reward, but no justice.

The Inquirer broke the story. Leach was one of dozens of troubled teens DHS sent to a private mental health facility in Tennessee owned by Universal Health Services Inc., a hospital chain based in King of Prussia. A family court judge sent Leach there after he violated probation by missing a court hearing and testing positive for marijuana.

At the facility, Leach got into a scuffle with a worker. A surveillance camera showed the worker strangling Leach. Witnesses said the boy was slammed to the ground and banged into a wall. Leach died the next day.

Tennessee authorities ruled his death a homicide. Yet, no criminal charges have been filed. Instead, DHS stopped sending kids there. The facility changed names, and the worker left. An attorney for Universal Health Services says "no one admits fault." A fat check has been written in place of the dead boy.

Accountability still awaits.

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