

**WFSB (CBS-Hartford)**

**Family awarded \$8 million in murder-suicide case**

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By Rob Polansky

BRIDGEPORT, CT (WFSB) -

A family was awarded more than \$8 million in damages nearly five years after a murder-suicide, according to the family's lawyer.

James Morrin of Vernon shot and killed his wife Alice Morin then himself in June of 2009.

A jury at Waterbury Superior Court awarded \$8,008,500 to the family of James Morrin after it was determined that he had an untreated mental illness.

The family claimed physician Carl Koplín of Tolland and the Healthwise Medical Group failed to listen to James Morrín in the months leading up to the murder-suicide.

Dr. Koplín and the medical group were found liable for James Morrín's death by a jury in December.

"This case underscores that primary care providers, who are in a unique position to recognize early signs of mental health problems in their patients, need to be part of any discussion about effective intervention and treatment," said Joshua Koskoff of the Bridgeport-based law firm Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder, who represented the Morrín family.

Koskoff said the case was brought by James Morrín's mother for the benefit of his 9 and 15-year-old daughters.

Dr. Koplín is currently serving a 5-year federal prison sentence on unrelated child pornography charges, according to court officials.

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