

CAUSE NO. 471-08453-2025

DOE FAMILIES I-III

Plaintiffs,

v.

**CELINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT and WILLIAM CALEB
ELLIOTT**

Defendants.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT

COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS

_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE COURT:

COME NOW Plaintiffs John Doe I and Jane Doe I, i/a/n/f John Doe II, a minor; John Doe III and Jane Doe II, i/a/n/f John Doe IV, a minor; and Jane Doe III, i/a/n/f John Doe V, a minor, and complain of Defendants Celina Independent School District and William Caleb Elliott, and in support would respectfully show the Court as follows:

LEVEL

1. Plaintiffs plead that discovery should be conducted in accordance with a tailored discovery control plan under Texas Civil Procedure Rule 190.4 (**Level 3**).

PARTIES

2. Plaintiffs are parents and their minor children, victims of the acts described herein. Plaintiffs are all identified by way of pseudonyms to protect their identities due to the heinous nature of those acts, as further explained below. Abbreviating the names of the minors while giving the parents' names would not suffice to protect their identities. This anonymization is consistent with the intent of Texas Judicial Administration Rule 14 and Texas Civil Procedure Rule 21c. Plaintiffs' identities will be made known to Defendants, through their counsel of record, as each Defendant designates counsel by appearance and answer.

3. Plaintiff John Doe I (last three digits of identification number: 950; last three digits of social security number: 186) is an individual residing in Collin County, Texas.

4. Plaintiff Jane Doe I (last three digits of identification number: 273; last three digits of social security number: 689) is an individual residing in Collin County, Texas.

5. Plaintiffs John Doe I and Jane Doe I proceed in their individual capacity and in their capacity as next friend of John Doe II, their minor child.

6. Plaintiff John Doe III (last three digits of identification number: 527; last three digits of social security number: 991) is an individual residing in Collin County, Texas.

7. Plaintiff Jane Doe II (last three digits of identification number: 680; last three digits of social security number: 313) is an individual residing in Collin County, Texas.

8. Plaintiffs John Doe III and Jane Doe II proceed in their individual capacity and in their capacity as next friend of John Doe IV, their minor child.

9. Plaintiff Jane Doe III (last three digits of identification number: 009; last three digits of social security number: 367) is an individual residing in Collin County, Texas. Plaintiff Jane Doe III proceeds in her individual capacity and in her capacity as next friend of John Doe V, her minor son.

10. Defendant Celina Independent School District is an independent school district situated in Collin County, Texas. Defendant Celina Independent School District may be served with citation by serving Thomas Albert Maglisceau, its superintendent, at 205 S. Colorado Street, Celina, Collin County, Texas 75009, the administrative offices of the ISD.

11. Defendant William Caleb Elliott is an individual resident and citizen of Texas who resides at 3913 Milo Drive, McKinney, Collin County, Texas 75071, where he may be served with citation.

VENUE

12. Venue is mandatory in Collin County because this suit involves invasion of privacy and Defendant William Caleb Elliott resided in Collin County at the time of filing suit. *See* Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 15.017.

13. Alternatively, venue is proper in Collin County because all or a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiff's' claims occurred in Collin County, Texas. *See* Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 15.002(a)(1).

14. Because this action is not brought under the Texas Tort Claims Act, Chapter 101 of the Civil Practice and Remedies Code, its mandatory venue provisions do not apply, but venue thereunder would be the same.

JURISDICTION

15. Plaintiffs seek monetary relief in excess of \$1,000,000. The damages sought are within the jurisdiction of this Court.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

16. To say Celina's football program is outstanding is an understatement. The Celina Bobcats are the lynchpin of the city and represent a legacy of success on the statewide stage lasting over a quarter century, a period in which Celina has exploded from a one-stoplight-town of just over 2,000 residents to a burgeoning city of over 50,000.

17. Inextricably linked with that legacy is Gary Autry (G.A.) Moore, Jr., Celina's celebrated high school football coach of over forty years. Not only did he lead the Bobcats to the longest winning streak in Texas high school football history, but he led the boys he coached to center themselves in duty, work ethic, and faith, while also pastoring the Baptist church in Pilot Point.

18. To many, Moore's Bobcats put the small town of Celina on the map.

19. Starting in 1962, Moore coached in Bryson, his hometown of Pilot Point, Celina, Sherman, retiring 2004–2009, and finally coaching in Aubrey, for a collective fifty-seven years of coaching, before his retirement in 2011. That year, Moore was inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame as the “All Time Winningest Coach.”

20. To celebrate Moore’s indomitable spirit and contribution to the young men of the City of Celina, the city renamed the portions of County Road 99 in its jurisdiction to East G.A. Moore Parkway.

21. In the fall of 2022, the Jerry and Linda Moore¹ Middle School opened its doors to grades 6–8 on 300 E. G.A. Moore Parkway, across the road from Celina High School, both under the auspices of the Celina Independent School District (“Celina ISD”).

22. After G.A. Moore no longer led the Celina high school football program, his successor had big shoes to fill. In 2012, Bill Elliott took the storied office of the Bobcats’ Head Coach, fighting for years to get Celina’s high school football back to its historic heights.

23. Bill Elliott cemented his own legacy in Celina football when he led the Bobcats to take state in 2024, once again plastering Texas news with Celina’s name. Elliott ascended to a Celina hero and was named 2025 G.A. Moore Coach of the Year.

24. Committed to family, Bill brought two of his sons—Nathan Elliott and William Caleb Elliott, who goes by Caleb—onto the coaching staff as well. Both were former Bobcats themselves, and Nathan became Offensive Coordinator, while Caleb became a receivers coach for the high school team.

¹ Coincidentally, of no relation to G.A. Moore. The school is named after a couple who have worked for the school district for over fifty years as teachers and administrators. On paper, the school is not named for G.A. Moore, though the comparison is irresistible.

25. As of this writing, Bill Elliott’s official biography on the ISD website reads “his enduring legacy at Celina High School is marked by a steadfast commitment to excellence, both on and off the field.”

26. Like many athletic faculty, Caleb Elliott (“Defendant Elliott”) eventually found his way into the academic side of Celina High School, by taking on substitute teaching work as the need arose during the 2022–23 school year.

27. At some point after Defendant Elliott began working at the high school, he began an improper (and unlawful²) relationship with a then-senior of the high school.

28. Instead of firing Elliott upon discovery of the improper and unlawful relationship, Celina ISD moves Elliott across the Parkway to Moore Middle School in the summer of 2023 as an eight-grade coach and sixth-grade Social Studies teacher.

29. Perhaps this was an exile, based on a misguided assumption that Defendant Elliott would not make students of such tender age the objects of his desire.

30. In fact, it would be Defendant Elliott’s introduction to the middle school boys’ locker room that created a new “enduring legacy” for Celina.

31. Throughout the 2024–25 school year and into the beginning of the 2025–2026 season, including summer training, the minor John Doe plaintiffs were male students involved in the football program at Moore Middle School for varying durations. As of October 2025, the boys were 14–15 years of age.

32. For reasons then unknown to the boys, at some point during the 2024–25 school year, their Assistant Coach, Defendant Elliott, was no longer allowed in the locker room, and they did not see him there for a period of time. With no communication from their coaches, the boys were left to wonder what had happened.

² Tex. Penal Code § 21.12 (improper relationship between educator and student).

33. The boys went through an ostensibly uneventful summer training: without going to the locker room, they were dropped off and picked up directly from the field.

34. In August 2025, the boys returned to school, and the locker room, once more. In Plaintiff John Doe V's case, he was new to Celina and its football program.

35. As of the start of the 2025–26 school year, the boys had two coaches under which Defendant Elliott assisted. Troy Davis was the Boys Athletic Coordinator and Secondary P.E. Teacher, and Chase Martin was the Middle School Football Coach.

36. Although nothing was communicated to the eighth-grade team, including the minor John Does, they noticed that Defendant Elliott did not come into the locker room except when he knew that Coaches Davis and Martin had retired to the coaches' office.

37. When the coast was clear, Elliott would enter the boys' locker room.

38. In September 2025, former coach G.A. Moore passed away. That same month, on the roadway honoring his name, Defendant Elliott committed heinous acts in the locker room of Moore Middle School.

39. Beginning sometime in September, the boys witnessed Defendant Elliott stand in and around the showers and stare wordlessly at the nude boys.

40. Defendant Elliott, undertaking no coach business in the locker room, would stand around in places where he could best gawk at the boys nude and disrobing.

41. While it was not unusual to have the passing through, supervision of locker room cleanliness, or other business of a coach coincide with the bathing and changing of the students, this was different and disturbing, but the young boys lacked the context to fully understand why.

42. In one incident, Defendant Elliott took aside minor Plaintiff John Doe V and confiscated his backpack, telling Doe that he had to do jumping jacks fully nude as punishment to get it back. Doe complied, while Defendant Elliott watched the child's penis.

43. Around this time, the boys began to suspect that Defendant Elliott was doing more than looking: that he was, in fact, imaging (photographing and/or videotaping) the boys with his smartphone.

44. This suspicion, although uncertain at the time, arose from Defendant Elliott attempting to clutch his phone in a casual, innocuous way in his hand by his waist, sometimes with his arms crossed, so that the camera of the phone was pointed outward, toward the boys.

45. On the morning of October 3, 2025, one student saw Defendant Elliott unmistakably and intentionally capturing multiple images on his cellphone of the boys nude and in various states of undress, in the changing area and showers of the middle school locker room.

46. These images included and were intentionally aimed at the boys, including the minor Doe plaintiffs', buttocks and genitals.

47. A student went promptly to the office of the principal, Allison Ginn, to alert her to the activity. The school promptly informed the Celina Police Department, which duly obtained a search warrant to seize Defendant Elliott's cellphone on the premises of Moore Middle School, which warrant was executed that afternoon.

48. The same evening, Defendant Elliott was arrested on suspicion of invasive visual recording, a state jail felony.³

49. On October 9, after further analysis of the contents of Defendant Elliott's cellphone, Defendant Elliott was arrested a second time on suspicion of possession of child pornography, a felony of the third degree.⁴

³ Tex. Penal Code § 21.15.

⁴ Tex. Penal Code § 43.26.

50. On October 15, 2025, the Celina ISD board of trustees held a special meeting on the subject, which had become a subject of shock and outrage among the community. The board intended to pass upon Defendant Elliott's relationship with the school at that meeting.

51. However, prior to the meeting, Defendant Elliott surrendered his teaching license and resigned from the school.

52. On information and belief, this was not Defendant Elliott's first incident known to the school, just the first time word of it got out of the ISD's bubble. In the 2024–25 school year, Defendant Elliott was caught placing cameras in the boys' locker room, imaging boys including those of the minor Doe Plaintiffs who were on the team at the time, leading to Elliott's above-mentioned ban from the locker room. His excuse at the time was that he did not know it was illegal and was trying to deter theft. Defendant Celina ISD simply mailed apology letters to select parents of victims but, beyond that, continued to harbor a child predator.

53. Defendant Elliott's criminal predation of young boys, including the minor Doe Plaintiffs, should come as no surprise to Defendant Celina ISD, which not only was aware of the problem before October 3, 2025, but deliberately undertook to cover it up.

INTRUSION UPON SECLUSION
AGAINST DEFENDANT WILLIAM CALEB ELLIOTT

54. Defendant William Caleb Elliott intentionally intruded on the minor Doe Plaintiffs' private affairs when he surreptitiously imaged the children, by handheld camera and/or by hidden camera, by photograph and/or videotape, without their consent while the children were in various states of undress, changing and bathing in the changing areas and showers of the Moore Middle School boys' locker room.

55. As a further factual basis, Defendant William Caleb Elliott intruded on the minor Doe Plaintiffs' private affairs separate and apart from imaging them by deliberately,

prolongedly, and intensely observing them nude, bathing, undressing, and changing therein, for the purpose of his own prurient interest, activity constituting criminal voyeurism of a minor, a state jail felony. *See* Tex. Penal Code § 21.17.

56. As a further factual basis, Defendant William Caleb Elliott intruded on the private affairs of Plaintiff John Doe V by demanding a sexual performance, *viz.*, nude jumping jacks, of him in order to regain possession of his backpack, activity constituting inducement of sexual performance by a child, a felony of the second degree, *see* Tex. Penal Code § 43.25(b), and potentially sexual coercion, *see* Tex. Penal Code § 21.18.

57. The intrusion was a kind that would be highly offensive to a reasonable person, in that a reasonable person would not expect to be secretly imaged in a locker room, in changing areas, or in the shower, without their consent, by their own coach/educator to whose care they were entrusted, and the same would shock and offend such reasonable person's sense of decency, trust, privacy, and personal agency.

58. Each of such intentional acts, singularly or in combination with others, constituted an invasion of Plaintiffs' privacy in the form of intrusion upon seclusion.

INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS
AGAINST DEFENDANT WILLIAM CALEB ELLIOTT

59. Defendant William Caleb Elliott imaged the minor Doe Plaintiffs, as described above, without their consent or knowledge, knowing that he did not have those Plaintiffs' consent, nor would he, had he sought it.

60. Moreover, as children, the minor Doe Plaintiffs lacked the capacity to give effective consent to be recorded nude and undressed if they were even asked, which they were not, if they even wished, which they did not.

61. Defendant William Caleb Elliott also induced and compelled the above-described sexual performance of Plaintiff John Doe V.

62. Defendant William Caleb Elliott knew that such behavior would subject Plaintiffs to severe emotional distress, because he knew that the ongoing recording of Plaintiffs, nude, changing, and bathing as minors, and the compelled sexual performance of Plaintiff John Doe V, would traumatize Plaintiffs and forever fix the boys, in their own minds, as victims of a child predator, incapacitating the children from growing into psychologically healthy and productive adult men capable of forming normal romantic and sexual relationships.

63. Defendant William Caleb Elliott's conduct was extreme and outrageous in character, and so extreme in degree, as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency, as to be regarded as atrocious and utterly intolerable in a civilized community. In particular, the conduct should be outrageous because Defendant Elliott sought to be, and was, entrusted with the safety of young boys *ex officio* his position as coach, and violated that trust for the shortsighted and selfish purpose of his own arousal and sexual gratification. Beyond doubt, Defendant Elliott's conduct was not only theoretically outrageous, but the portions of it made known to the public actually outraged the community of Celina, Texas, as evidenced by the public outcry following the arrest of Defendant Elliott, as seen in the public comment made at the school board meeting.

64. Plaintiffs' resulting emotional distress has been severe in that, since learning that the minor Doe Plaintiffs have been sexually victimized and imaged, Plaintiffs have difficulty sleeping, attending school, continuing their athletics participation, and using public changing and bathing facilities as before.

65. The minor Doe Plaintiffs have begun or will imminently begin psychotherapeutic counseling to process the events described herein and mitigate their intolerable distress and the potential welling up of posttraumatic stress.

66. Each of Defendant William Caleb Elliott's intentional acts, singularly or in combination with others, constituted intentional infliction of emotional distress, which proximately caused Plaintiffs' severe mental pain and anguish.

**GROSS NEGLIGENCE UNDER C.P.R.C. CHAPTER 118 AGAINST
DEFENDANT CELINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

67. Plaintiffs proceed against Defendant Celina Independent School District pursuant to Chapter 118 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code (the "Act"), which effects a waiver and abolition of governmental and official immunity of public schools and professional school employees for sexual misconduct.

68. In satisfaction of the Act's requirements for liability, Plaintiffs would show that Defendant Celina Independent School District, a public school, was grossly negligent, reckless, or engaged in intentional misconduct, in hiring, supervising, or employing a professional school employee, *viz.*, Defendant William Caleb Elliott, rendering it liable for an act or omission that is committed by the employee against a student enrolled in the school and that is sexual misconduct or failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect under Section 261.101, Family Code. Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 118.002(a).

69. In particular, Defendant Celina Independent School District's conduct, as a body corporate or by way of any agent or employee thereof, in continuing to employ Elliott after the discovery of an improper relationship, moving Elliott to the employ of the middle school after that discovery, banning but not firing Elliott after the discovery of hidden cameras in the middle school locker room, insufficiently supervising Elliott's interactions with young boys including the minor Doe Plaintiffs in the locker room after all of the above was made known to the ISD through the use of two-deep leadership, failing to train Elliott and others by way of written policies and continuing education in a manner which could have avoided the abuse herein described, acquiescing to Elliott's presence in the locker room

whether or not he was banned, and failing to report Elliott's conduct to parents, supervisors, administrators, the principal, the superintendent, and the board of trustees to enable any or all of them to pass upon his continued employment, was grossly negligent, in that, when viewed objectively from the standpoint of Defendant Celina Independent School District at the time of the act or omission, the conduct involved an extreme degree of risk, considering the probability and magnitude of the potential harm to others, and in that Defendant Celina Independent School District had actual, subjective awareness of the risk involved, in its knowledge of Elliott's improper teacher–student relationship and hidden camera recording, but, nevertheless, proceeded with conscious indifference to the rights, safety, and welfare of others, including Plaintiffs.

70. Each of such acts and omissions, singularly or in combination with others, constituted gross negligence which proximately caused the sexual conduct herein described and the injuries which Plaintiffs suffered as a result, because, if Defendant Celina Independent School District had undertaken any of these preventative measures including criminal complaint or termination, Plaintiffs would not have been subject to said conduct.

71. In further satisfaction of the Act's requirements for liability, this suit under the Act against the public school, Defendant Celina Independent School District, has named the professional school employee who committed the act or omission on which the claim is based, Defendant William Caleb Elliott, as a defendant. Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 118.002(b).

72. Defendant Celina Independent School District is a public school within the meaning of the Act because it is “an independent school district or open-enrollment charter school.” *See* Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 118.001(3).

73. Defendant William Caleb Elliott was a “professional school employee” because at all times described herein, he was a teacher employed by a public school, namely, Defendant Celina Independent School District. Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 118.001.

74. The acts or omissions complained of herein were committed by the professional school employee, Defendant William Caleb Elliott, against students enrolled in the school, the minor Doe Plaintiffs above described, and the acts or omissions constituted sexual conduct.

75. The acts or omissions constituted “sexual conduct” within the meaning of the Act because it constituted sexual abuse or one or more of the enumerated statutes in the Act, *See* Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 118.001(4), including but not limited to Texas Penal Code:

- a. § 21.02(c)(6). Continuous Sexual Abuse of Young Child or Disabled Individual;
- b. § 21.11(a)(2)(B). Indecency with a Child by Causing the Child to Expose the Child’s Anus or Any Part of the Child’s Genitals;
- c. § 21.15. Invasive Visual Recording in a Changing Room;
- d. § 21.17. Voyeurism;
- e. § 21.18. Sexual Coercion; and
- f. § 43.25. Sexual Performance by a Child.

76. Plaintiffs affirmatively plead that the governmental immunity of Defendant Celina Independent School District is waived, and the official immunity of Defendant William Caleb Elliott is abolished, to the extent either party is liable under the Act. *See* Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 118.006.

77. Plaintiffs have prepared memoranda and briefing on these elements and this statute sufficient to defeat any dispositive motion but invite Defendants to augment the amount of the compulsory grant of attorney’s fees and costs sought herein pursuant to the Act. *See* Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 118.004.

ATTORNEY'S FEES

78. Because this is a suit under Chapter 118 of the Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Plaintiffs are entitled to court costs and reasonable and necessary attorney's fees. Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 118.004.

CONDITIONS PRECEDENT

79. All conditions precedent to Plaintiffs' claims for relief have been performed or have occurred.

DAMAGES

80. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' gross negligence and intentional conduct, respectively, Plaintiffs have sustained bodily injuries and incurred expenses for the necessary medical care of those injuries and in reasonable probability will incur future medical expenses. This particular pleading of damages is expressly limited to psychological conditions above and beyond ordinary mental anguish which require psychotherapeutic and/or psychiatric counseling, i.e., "medical expenses." These charges are reasonable, customary, and prevailing charges for the services rendered in the county in which they were rendered.

81. Plaintiffs have also sustained physical pain and mental anguish and in reasonable probability, will continue to sustain physical pain and mental anguish into the future.

82. Plaintiffs have also sustained physical impairment and in reasonable probability, will continue to sustain physical impairment into the future.

83. Plaintiffs have also sustained an invasion of privacy.

84. Plaintiffs have also sustained an injury to reputation.

85. Plaintiffs' injuries resulted from Defendant Elliott's malice, which entitles Plaintiffs to exemplary damages as to him only under Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code

section 41.003(a)(2). In particular, Defendant William Caleb Elliott possessed the specific intent to cause substantial injury or harm to Plaintiffs, by exploiting their trust as students and athletes under his tutelage to intrude upon their nudity and bathing, causing severe mental anguish. See Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 41.001(7).

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request that Defendants appear and answer, and that this case be tried before a jury, after which Plaintiffs take a judgment against Defendants, jointly and severally, for damages including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1) actual damages including:
 - a) past and future medical expenses;
 - b) past physical pain and mental anguish;
 - c) future physical pain and mental anguish;
 - d) past physical impairment;
 - e) future physical impairment;
 - f) invasion of privacy;
 - g) injury to reputation;
- 2) exemplary damages as to Defendant William Caleb Elliott only;
- 3) reasonable attorney's fees;
- 4) costs of court;
- 5) prejudgment and post-judgment interest at the highest lawful rate; and
- 6) such other and further relief, at law or in equity, to which Plaintiffs may be justly entitled.

NOTICE THAT DOCUMENTS WILL BE USED

Plaintiffs, in accordance with Rule 193.7 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, hereby give notice to all parties that Plaintiffs intend to use at trial, or at any pre-trial proceedings, all documents produced by Defendants and Plaintiffs in response to discovery from any and all parties in this cause.

METHODS OF SERVICE

Plaintiffs' counsel has a designated electronic service email address for all electronically served documents and notices, filed and unfiled. Pursuant to Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 21a(a)(1) and 21(f)(2), Plaintiffs' electronic service email address is **service@herzlaw.com**. **Service through any other email address will be considered invalid.**

Respectfully submitted,

HERZ LAW

/s/ Paul Herz

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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS

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Paul Herz on behalf of Paul Herz

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Case Contacts

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