

Dunce cap at center of dispute

By **CHESTER SHEARD**

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A middle school student suffered emotional injuries when a teacher made him wear a dunce cap as punishment, attorneys allege in a claim they say they filed with Milwaukee Public Schools.

The attorneys, Robin Shellow and William O. Marquis, say the boy, who attends Hayes Alternative School, 2431 S. 10th St., is "cognitively disabled."

According to Shellow and Marquis:

The boy, 13, and another student were involved in a dispute over a tape recording in a school hallway March 25.

A teacher broke up the fight and took the 13-year-old to a classroom, where he was ordered to wear a yellow dunce cap with a pink feather protruding from it.

As further punishment, the teacher threw trash at the youth and urged other students to do the same. Another teacher later participated in the punishment.

According to Shellow, the teachers admitted making the boy wear the cap but said they believed it was appropriate punishment.

The attorneys said they filed the claim with the School District and city attorney after reporting the incident to the district attorney's office.

The claim seeks unspecified damages, a halt to alleged harassment, the immediate dismissal of all teachers involved, a full investigation by neutral parties and the youth's transfer to another school.

Denise Callaway, the MPS media representative, said she could not comment on the claim because she had not seen it.