

REVISION ORDERED IN SUIT AGAINST RACIST'S PARENTS

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A Cook County Circuit judge said Tuesday a lawsuit against the parents of white supremacist Benjamin Nathaniel Smith can move forward only if it more closely connects them to their son's 4th of July weekend shooting spree that targeted Jews, Asians and blacks.

Attorney Ed Ruff, who represents Kenneth and Beverly Smith of Northfield, had asked Associate Judge Joseph Casciato to throw out the lawsuit, filed on behalf of the family of Ephriam Wolfe, a 15-year-old Orthodox Jew wounded in West Rogers Park on July 2 during Smith's shooting rampage.

Instead, Casciato gave Michael Bender, who represents the plaintiffs, 28 days to file a new complaint bolstering the case against the Smiths after Bender assured the judge he could. The lawsuit accuses the Smiths of negligently raising their son by allowing or encouraging him to become racist.

Smith killed two people and injured nine others over the July 4th holiday weekend. He committed suicide as authorities tried to arrest him.

The suit also names two other defendants, Donald Fiessinger, who allegedly sold Benjamin Smith the illegal weapons used in the attack, and Matthew Hale, leader of the World Church of the Creator, who is accused of inspiring the shootings through his racist, anti-Semitic message.

Hale has filed a separate motion to dismiss the case against him, saying that he cannot be held liable just for expressing his views.

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