

# High court rules against interstate medical liability

July 19 2017

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(HealthDay)—The Washington State high court has ruled against

interstate medical liability, according to a report from the American Medical Association.

The case relates to a fatality resulting from injuries that occurred during a high-school football game in Washington State. The patient, a 17-year-old Idaho resident, had been injured in a football game and was examined by his childhood [primary care physician](#) in Idaho. The boy reported headaches and [neck pain](#) after a hard hit to the head. The physician was subsequently asked to provide written clearance for participation in a [football game](#) in Washington after the boy's mother told the physician that the boy's headaches had stopped.

The boy appeared sluggish, confused, and slow to respond in the next game, and after a hard hit by an opposing player, he collapsed, dying two days later. The parents filed a lawsuit against the school, volunteer coach, and physician three years later. However, the state Supreme Court ruled that Washington courts did not have jurisdiction over the care provided by the physician, in accordance with a 1992 precedent.

"If malpractice were to become a 'portable tort,' physicians may feel compelled to interrogate patients about their residence and travel plans, and to decide on that basis whether to provide care," according to the amicus brief filed by the Litigation Center of the American Medical Association and State Medical Societies.

**More information:** [More Information](#)

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Citation: High court rules against interstate medical liability (2017, July 19) retrieved 24 June 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-07-high-court-interstate-medical-liability.html>

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