

# TEXAS: U.S. District Court condones deliberate injury to schoolchildren

GROVETON, TX - On August 21, 2003, Justin Michael Causby was beaten on the buttocks with a wooden board by his school coach.

- Justin's mother says: "You could see blood through his underwear."
- Justin's doctor's said the bruises were: "consistent with traumatic injury."
- Texas Department of Education spokesperson, Geoff Wool said: "Corporal punishment is allowed. If it's done in a measured, nonviolent way, it's not considered abuse."



10-year-old Justin Michael Causby's injuries from being paddled at school

Justin Causby has approved our use of this image.

## Federal Court dismisses suit against Groveton ISD

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GROVETON - Groveton ISD has received notice that the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas has dismissed the lawsuit filed by Michael and Lynn Causby against the District, its current band director, Jeremy McKissick, and a former coach, Josh Finney.

The Causbys had filed their lawsuit against the district and the two teachers trying to hold them monetarily liable for damages arising out of the administration of corporal punishment to their child, a student at the district. The Causbys attacked the district's use of corporal punishment as to their child as well as a means of discipline in general.

The federal court, citing long established law, acknowledged that even if everything claimed by the Causbys were true, the paddling of recalcitrant children has long been an accepted method of

promoting good behavior and instilling notions of responsibility and decorum into mischievous heads of school children.

The district has recently experienced adverse media attention concerning its use of corporal punishment as a disciplinary alternative. According to Groveton ISD superintendent, Joe David Driskell, the Causbys' claims had, prior to their initiation of the lawsuit, been reviewed by school officials, Child Protective Services and a Trinity County Grand Jury, all of which failed to entertain the same. Driskell acknowledged that it was encouraging to know that the long held Groveton ISD board policy pertaining to use of corporal punishment was still in line with state and federal law.

### Causby case related articles

1. "Hearing aids' for students," By Lyndol Wilkinson, *The Huntsville Item*, January 27, 2006 [www.nospank.net/causby4.htm](http://www.nospank.net/causby4.htm)
2. "Parents of student who was paddled file suit against Groveton ISD," *The Lufkin Daily News*, September 8, 2005 [www.nospank.net/n-p07r.htm](http://www.nospank.net/n-p07r.htm)
3. "It was the fourth day of school. Justin Causby got in trouble with his gym coach," CNN.COM, August 16, 2004 [www.nospank.net/causby2.htm](http://www.nospank.net/causby2.htm)
4. "Age-old controversy: Is paddling right...?," By Mira Oberman, *Dallas Morning News*, July 24, 2004 [www.nospank.net/n-m81r.htm](http://www.nospank.net/n-m81r.htm)
5. "Paddling Investigation; Pros And Cons Of Pops," KTRE9.com, May 23, 2004 [www.nospank.net/n-m11r.htm](http://www.nospank.net/n-m11r.htm)
6. Jimmy Dunne's letter to *The Groveton News* (Texas), May 3, 2004 [www.nospank.net/n-191r.htm](http://www.nospank.net/n-191r.htm)
7. "Child Injured, Mom Angry Over Corporal Punishment," By Donna McCollum, KTRE Television, April 29, 2004 [www.nospank.net/n-190r.htm](http://www.nospank.net/n-190r.htm)