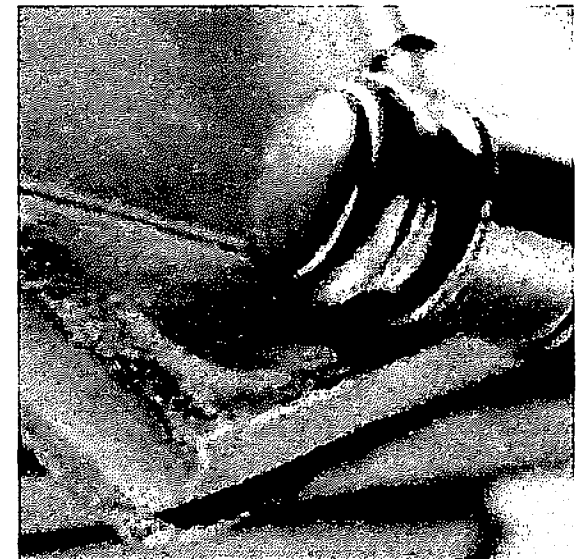


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Blind Resident Files Suit Against Hartland Community

October 7, 2014

10/7/14 - A blind and disabled Hartland Township man has filed a federal discrimination lawsuit against the manufactured housing community where he resides, saying he is being denied the ability to use his wheelchair on sidewalks. 64-year-old Philip Cusumano filed a complaint against Hartland Meadows alleging handicap discrimination in violation of the Fair Housing Amendments Act. Cusumano suffers from numerous health issues and became legally blind after receiving a lung transplant in 2002. His kidneys failed in recent years and he began using a wheelchair in 2012. Cusumano relies on clear sidewalk paths to get around in his wheelchair, and has lived in the community with his wife since November 2011. The streets in the neighborhood are said to be narrow and residents will park on the street and sidewalks, blocking Cusumano's wheelchair access. The complaint states he has been prevented for the last year from accessing his mailbox and other common areas in Hartland Meadows such as the playground and has almost been struck by oncoming traffic. The complaint says Cusumano is entitled to damages based on his emotional distress, pain and suffering because of the defendant's failure and refusals to grant reasonable accommodations. It further requests Hartland Meadows be required to enforce its own policies prohibiting parking on sidewalks. The lawsuit was filed in U.S District Court in Detroit. (JM)



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