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Saddle River man to receive \$4.1M settlement following drug overdose

A man who overdosed on stolen drugs he ingested at a party in 2007 has settled his lawsuit with a pharmacy, several guests, the party's host and the host's mother for \$4.1 million.

Scott Simon, then 17, said he took Xanax that was given to him by a former employee of a Ridgewood drug store and suffered permanent nerve damage as a result.

Simon's attorney John Schepisi told The Record of Woodland Park that one party guest was a former pharmacy employee who stole Xanax from the drugstore and gave it to Simon. Simon took the drugs at the party and fell into a coma.

But instead of calling for help immediately, other guests waited for a while before driving him to the hospital, his lawyer said.

Simon suffered permanent nerve damage that impaired his ability to walk and talk, Schepisi said.

"He stays at home now, trying to recuperate," Schepisi said. "He can't walk without help. He has been declared incompetent."

If Simon had been taken to a hospital right away, the injuries likely wouldn't have been permanent, the lawyer said.

Simon sued the pharmacy for not taking proper precautions to avoid the theft of drugs. He also sued several guests, the party's host and the host's parents, who were away for the weekend.

All of them will contribute toward the settlement except the host's father, who wasn't living at the home at the time.

Silvana Raso, another attorney representing Simon, said her client shares responsibility for taking the drugs. But she said the case should serve as a cautionary tale for parents whose children host parties at their homes.