

York police assaulted father and nine-year-old son, lawsuit claims

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Staff Writer

A Sutton man with Parkinson's disease has filed a \$3.6-million lawsuit against York Regional

Police claiming an officer assaulted him and his nine-year-old son this past summer.

In a statement of claim filed in a Toronto court this week, Don

Reese, 59, and his son Adam allege York Regional Police Const. Ken Coucke assaulted them and falsely arrested Mr. Reese while they were trying to report a crime.

None of the allegations in the statement of claim have been proven in court.

The Reeses held a yard sale at the end of July at which they claim someone stole a chainsaw and threatened Adam with it while Mr. Reese had stepped away for a moment.

Mr. Reese did not witness the theft, but after trying to find out who the culprit was, he called police.

Adam told the officer what happened, but Const. Coucke accused him of lying, the report claimed.

Mr. Reese asked the officer to leave, an argument ensued and Mr. Reese said if the police weren't willing to help, he may seek revenge himself by slashing the thieves' tires.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Don Reese and his son, Adam, claim an altercation with police started as they were reporting a theft.

Suddenly, Const. Coucke told Mr. Reese he was under arrest for uttering threats.

Const. Coucke grabbed Mr. Reese's arm. Mr. Reese tried to pull away, but slipped and fell.

When he tried to get up Const. Coucke kned him in the stom-

ach, groin, kidneys and lower rib area, according to the statement of claim.


Mr. Reese claimed he tried to tell the officer he suffers from asthma and Parkinson's disease, but his only reply was "you deserve it".

When Mr. Reese began suffering an asthmatic attack, he claims the officer refused to let him use his puffer.

Nine-year-old Adam stepped in to try and stop the assault, but was violently pushed out of the way, the statement of claim went on to reveal.

"I stepped in front of him and said 'why are you trying to kill my dad?'" Adam said.

York Regional Police representatives have yet to file a statement of defence.



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