

MDCALA

Maryland
Citizens Against
Lawsuit Abuse



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Carrie W. Capuco, J.D.

OPINION

December 26, 2003

Recently an article came to my attention, "Skittish Schools Need To Take A Recess". The reporter attended a PTA meeting in Silver Spring that addressed the escalating restrictions school children now face with recreational play and the dismay parents are experiencing over the lack of fun for their children. The parents were outraged that "kids could not be kids and enjoy spontaneous play." How sad it is to read that Montgomery County has banned Dodge Ball from the traditional recess play!

The fear of litigation has affected almost every aspect of our children's school day. An astonishing 42% of Maryland's public middle and high school principals spend 5-15 hours out of each workweek dealing with litigation-related issues. Seventy-eight percent said they have seen an increase in litigation over the past ten years. In addition, almost thirty percent of principals said volunteerism has decreased because of the threat of lawsuits.

Maryland Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (MDCALA) educates the public on lawsuit abuse and what it costs us-the consumer.

Visit our website at www.mdcala.org to learn more.

Sincerely,

Carrie W. Capuco
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