



7:06PM EST
FEW CLOUDS
TMP:79° H.I.:82°

Live Doppler SkyView 16



Search **GO**

Site Map Advanced Search

- NEWS WEATHER SPORTS CONTACT 16 SPECIAL REPORTS WHAT'S ON ABOUT US CONTACT US
- FREE CLASSIFIEDS CONTESTS LOCAL EVENTS COMMUNITY SHOW BIZ SHOP RECIPES COUPONS
- ASK THE EXPERTS HEALTH RESOURCE Moms Wheels RSS

COMING UP ON NEWSCENTER 16

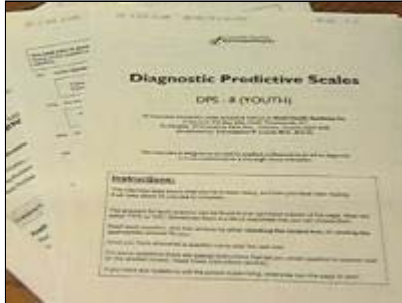
Coverage You Can Count On. How does NewsCenter 16 do it? By teaming more people and resources to bring you today's top news, weather and sports than any other TV news team in our area.

Experienced journalists and meteorologists, along with our very own **NewsChopper 16, Live Super Doppler 16 Radar, and access to NBC and CNN** add up to more of the [award-winning coverage](#) you've come to expect.

NewsCenter 16, tonight at 11pm. **Coverage you can count on.**

[Home](#) > [News](#) > Story

Lawsuit filed against PHM for Teen Screen



The lawsuit was filed after some parents took issue with Teen Screen

[Print](#) [Email](#) [RSS](#)

Related Stories

- [Parents seek to eliminate suicide survey](#)

Posted: 09/19/2005 05:16 pm
Last Updated: 09/19/2005 05:29 pm

[[Watch Video](#) (01:23)]

Story filed by NewsCenter16 Reporter [Stephanie Stang](#)

A Michiana family has filed a lawsuit against the Penn-Harris-Madison school district. The lawsuit stems from a suicide survey that was given to students at Penn High School last fall.

Since the survey was given, two parents have been fighting it ever since. They say too many teens, including their own, are taking mental health surveys without

parental consent.

The PHM school system will head to their attorney soon. "With respect to this litigation, it will probably have to work its way through the next few weeks or months," says Dr. Bob Howard, superintendent of PHM Schools.

The Rutherford Institute, a civil liberties group in Virginia, has filed a lawsuit against the district on behalf of a Penn High School family.

The suit goes back to Teen Screen, a mental health screening given last year.

Parents Michael and Teresa Rhoades objected to the survey when their 15-year-old daughter took it because it violated parental rights.

"Both federal law and Indiana state law require written consent from parents before these kinds of tests can be administered to their children. The parental rights issue is very important. Parents should be given notice and appropriately sign off on these kinds of tests," says John Whitehead, president of the Rutherford Institute.

Since the survey was given, the school decided they would change their policy by having parents sign a release form before students take the survey.

Dr. Howard says, "We really thought that this was a matter that fully had been addressed."

Regardless, the Rutherford Institute is still pursuing the lawsuit hoping to set a standard around the country.

"This Teen Screen program is in effect in 43 states and I would hope that this gives notice to other states around country that they can't bypass parents," Whitehead says.

TOP STORIES

- [Airport moves hurdle in relocation project](#)
- [Lawsuit filed against PHM for Teen Screen](#)
- [Food bank urges you not to donate clothes](#)
- [Lakeshore student saves classmate's life](#)
- [Elkhart firefighting teams wins high honor](#)

DAILY HEADLINES

Sign up for daily e-mail headlines. It's free!

Email:

[Subscribe](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) |

 Go

INFORMATION

- [About WNDU](#)
- [Advertise on WNDU](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Contests](#)
- [HDTV](#)
- [Jobs at WNDU](#)
- [Meet the WNDU Team](#)
- [Public Service](#)
- [The More You Know](#)
- [Press Releases](#)
- [TV Schedule](#)
- [Sites Mentioned on TV](#)

RESOURCES

- [16 Health Resource](#)
- [Ask the Experts](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Daily Email Headlines](#)
- [Subscribe](#) | [Unsub.](#)
- [Gas Price Update](#)
- [JobsMichiana.com](#)
- [Holiday Events](#)
- [Festival Guide](#)



Weekdays at 7:00pm on Channel 16

[Local Events](#)

[Lottery Links](#)

[Movie Times](#)

[Unique Eats](#)

[WNDU Extra](#)

[RSS](#)

The lawsuit was filed today so the PHM school district has yet to determine how they will legally approach the issue.



Make [WNDU.com](#) your homepage

[Back to news](#) | [Archives](#) | [News in your town](#) | [News in Pictures](#)

USEFUL LINKS

[Do Not Call Lists](#)

[Sex Offender Search](#)

[Unclaimed Property](#)

[Safety Alerts](#)

Looking for a job? Visit [JobsMichiana.com](#)

Free Classifieds

Autos, Houses, Rentals and Merchandise.
Find or sell them in our [free classifieds](#).

[News](#) | [Weather](#) | [Sports](#) | [Contests](#) | [Local Events](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [WNDUExtra.com](#)

[Copyright](#) 1999-2005 Michiana Telecasting Corp. All rights reserved. Unauthorized, use, reproduction, or redistribution of the content of this page is strictly prohibited.

WNDU-TV South Bend, Indiana 46634
[Privacy Policy](#) | [EEO Public File Report](#)