

Family sues drug maker, Prospect pediatrician

Parents say Zoloft led to suicide try

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Mark and Phyllis Fetter say their teenage daughter, who had trouble sleeping, was diagnosed with major depression and was prescribed the antidepressant Zoloft last December.

Two weeks later, the 16-year-old wrote a suicide note and tried to kill herself by driving her parents' car off an embankment, according to the Fetters.

Yesterday, the Oldham County couple sued Pfizer Inc., the maker of Zoloft, and Terence McKenna, the doctor who prescribed the medicine.

The lawsuit, filed in Jefferson Circuit Court, alleges that Pfizer "concealed adverse reports and provided inaccurate or biased information" about

Zoloft, misleading doctors who prescribed the antidepressant.

Pfizer failed to inform the medical and research communities that a "significant number of individuals taking Zoloft during clinical trials attempted or committed acts of self-harm," according to the lawsuit.

McKenna is accused of failing to warn the Fetters of the risks of Zoloft and the benefits of alternative therapies.

The lawsuit is seeking pu-

nitive damages and a jury trial. Claims made in filing a lawsuit give only one side of the case.

McKenna, who works at Prospect Pediatrics, and Pfizer Inc. representatives did not return telephone calls seeking comment.

In October, the Food and Drug Administration ordered that all antidepressants carry "black box" warnings that they "increase the risk of suicidal thinking and behavior" in chil-

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