

Court upholds dismissal of suit in Zina case

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In a decision announced Tuesday, the three-judge panel from Division I upheld a King County Superior Court judge's 2011 order dismissing the wrongful death suit brought by relatives of Zina Linnik.

Zina was 12 on July 4, 2007, when Terapon Adhahn snatched her from behind her Hilltop home. Adhahn subsequently was convicted of aggravated first-degree murder and is serving life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The girl's family later sued, saying the state and county failed to properly monitor Adhahn, then a low-level sex offender. The Linniks also contended the city failed to properly issue an Amber Alert the night Zina went missing.

Superior Court Judge J. Wesley Saint Clair accepted arguments from government attorneys that the state and county were not liable for Adhahn's actions and that the city's tardiness in issuing the Amber Alert did not put Zina in more jeopardy.

The appeals court also accepted those arguments in upholding Saint Clair.