

West Boca ice hockey dad charged with attacking teen player agrees to anger management

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PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE, COURTESY

A child abuse charge against Delray Beach chiropractor Matthew Supran, 44, will be dropped if he completes 12 hours of anger management classes and stays out of trouble. Supran was arrested last October and accused of attacking at 14-year-old ice hockey player at a rink west of Lake Worth.

By Marc Freeman, Sun Sentinel

4:51 pm, January 16, 2014

The referee called a five-minute penalty against the 14-year-old ice hockey player who elbowed Delray Beach chiropractor Matthew Supran's son during a game last October.

But Supran, 44, himself wound up spending nine hours in a different penalty box — a Palm Beach County Jail cell. The West Boca dad was charged with child abuse for coming on the ice and attacking the teen after the illegal hit on his boy.

On Thursday, Supran briefly appeared before Palm Beach County Circuit Judge Stephen Rapp to resolve the criminal case through a pre-trial intervention agreement with the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office.

If Supran attends 12 hours of anger management classes and stays out of trouble, the charge will be dropped in as soon as one year. Supran, who did not admit guilt, had no prior arrests.

Prosecutor Jessica Kahn said the victim's family agreed with the resolution; the teen wasn't injured by Supran during the Oct 20 incident at Palm Beach Skate Zone, 8125 Lake Worth Road.

A report by Palm Beach County Sheriff's Deputy Joey Joseph said Supran's 11-year-old son was elbowed by a player on the opposing team and fell face down on the ice. The referee later said it wasn't a "malicious" play.

Supran, who stands 6 foot 3 and weighs 230 pounds, is accused of running across the ice and striking the smaller victim, the player flagged for the elbowing.

"He then grabbed the child's face mask, slammed his head into the boards and fell on top of him," the arrest report stated.

But Supran's defense attorneys, Guy Fronstin and Arye P. Corbett, said after Thursday's hearing "the evidence was unequivocally clear that the allegations against Dr. Supran were grossly inaccurate."

Supran, in his service to several youth hockey teams, regularly goes on the ice to provide treatments to injured players, Fronstin and Corbett said. Their client agreed to the case outcome "as an opportunity to learn how he could have handled the situation better."

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