

## Malin man suing Sky Lakes, two doctors

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A Malin man is suing Sky Lakes Medical Center and two local physicians for \$11.5 million after he claims a 2009 spine surgery at the hospital left him with severe injuries and blindness.

Sky Lakes denies the claims.

Michael Silva filed the suit in Klamath County Circuit Court in November against Sky Lakes, surgeon Jacqueline Nozipo Maraire and anesthesiologist Todd Kirschenmann. The suit also lists Kirschenmann Anesthesia Inc. and Klamath Surgical Specialists as defendants.

An attorney for Sky Lakes denied Silva's allegations, specifically the allegations that Kirschenmann was negligent or caused injuries to Silva, in a document filed with the Circuit Court last week. Sky Lakes spokesman Tom Hottman said he could not comment on the specifics of the case.

Silva is blind in one eye and has partial vision in the other as a result of the lumbar decompression and stabilization surgery performed by the defendants in November 2009, said attorney Patrick Block, of Portland, who is representing Silva.

Silva is seeking \$10 million for severe injury, pain and distress, \$500,000 for medical expenses and \$1 million for the loss of future wages. A commercial truck driver who hauled hay in the Klamath Basin for a living, Silva can no longer work because of his blindness, Block said.

**More of this story, including Silva's specific allegations, appears in Saturday's print and e-editions of the Herald and News. [Click here to subscribe.](#)**