

New Jersey Supreme Court

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The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that a state law protecting nonprofit organizations from negligence lawsuits does not apply to all sexual abuse cases.

The New Jersey Supreme Court has issued a ruling that defines the amount of protection awarded to nonprofit organizations under a state law which exempts those nonprofit organizations from negligence lawsuits. The nearly unanimous decision clarifies that the state's "Charitable Immunity Act" does not exempt nonprofit organizations from claims based upon "willful, wanton or grossly negligent conduct."

The ruling allows John W. Hardwicke, Jr., to press forward with his lawsuit alleging repeated instances of molestation by the music director and three other employees of the American Boychoir of Princeton, during Hardwicke's attendance at the facility.

This decision is an affirmation of a prior decision by the state's appeals court, which entered a finding for Hardwicke in March.