



## Family settles in Rogers Park fire

 By Theresa Gutierrez

November 13, 2007 - Families of six children who all died in an apartment fire more than a year ago will be receiving \$6 million. The legal settlement was announced by lawyers of the families, who had filed that lawsuit.

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The settlement was approved Tuesday in a separate part of Cook County for the deaths of six children and the injuries of two other children in a Rogers Park fire 14 months ago.

"This settlement will never compensate these families for the heartbreaking deaths," said a lawyer for the victims' families.

The fire broke out at 7706 North Marshfield in September of 2006. Kevin, Idaly, Sucette, Erik and Vanessa Ramirez perished in the fire, along with Scarlett Ramos. Two others were severely injured.

We reached the settlement with defendants Marshway Limited Partnership, Marshway LLC and CIG Management LLC," said lawyer John Perconti.

Attorneys say the \$6 million settlement will never compensate the two families for the heartbreaking deaths of their loved ones and for the injuries suffered by William and Natalia Ramirez. Yadira Ramirez was staying with her godmother.

The Ramirez' attorney said Commonwealth Edison turned off their electricity because they had failed to pay their bill. They were living in conditions that most could not endure, using candles for light. Investigators believe the candles were the cause of the Sept. 3 fire. Investigators confirmed there were no smoke detectors in the third floor apartment. Other smoke detectors in the building were defective.

The settlement will provide family members periodic payments for the rest of their lives. Attorneys added that the tragedy was the impetus for the unveiling of mayor Daley's \$1.5 million grant plan to provide money to families whose electricity is disconnected by Commonwealth Edison and who are ineligible for low income assistance. They believe this plan will prevent similar tragedy.

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