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## Multi-Million Dollar Settlement Announced In Deadly Fire

### ***Ramirez: Money Will Help Surviving Siblings***

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**CHICAGO** -- There was a multi-million dollar settlement on Tuesday in the deaths of six children in a Rogers Park apartment fire one year ago.

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NBC5's Rob Stafford reported that the family of five of the six children who died reached a \$6 million settlement with their landlord, Marshway Limited Partnership, and CIG Management. An investigation found numerous building code violations, including no smoke detectors.

"We believe that if there had been working smoke detectors, the family would have been able to timely escape the building without serious injury or tragic death," said the family's attorney, John Perconti.

One million dollars of the \$6 million settlement will go to the family of the other child who died, Stafford reported.

Two other Ramirez children were left with permanent scars as a result of the fire, Stafford reported. Yadira Ramirez, their older sister, was not at the apartment the night of the fire, but she said she still hasn't healed. Yadira Ramirez represented her parents at the news conference on Tuesday.

"Everything is really hard," she said. "It was where we would go every time we see a family. We remember everything."

Investigators said they believe a candle caused the fire. The Ramirez family was using candles because Commonwealth Edison had shut off their power for failure to pay their electric bills. The tragedy led to a city grant program to cover electric costs for families in need.

Ramirez said the settlement would help her little and brother, who were still recovering more than a year after the fire. The two children, who escaped with burns, underwent skin grafts and rehabilitation.

"For once, my brothers are going to live better than what we were used to," she said.

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