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Perth Father Condemns Suspended Sentence for Teen Behind Brutal Coward Punch Attack

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A Western Australian father has publicly denounced the suspended sentence handed to the teenage boy who cowardly punched his 14-year-old son, calling the court’s decision a “slap on the wrist.” The victim, a schoolboy, was severely injured in the unprovoked assault at Ellenbrook Central shopping center in Perth, suffering a broken jaw in two places, seizures, and an ongoing risk of traumatic brain injury.

The attack, which was captured on closed-circuit television (CCTV), showed the 14-year-old being struck from behind without warning. He collapsed face-first onto the floor and lay

motionless for around 20 seconds before attempting to stand. The 15-year-old offender remained nearby until concerned shoppers began pursuing him.

In court, the teenage attacker was sentenced to a six-month **suspended sentence**, meaning he will not serve time in a juvenile facility unless he breaches specific conditions. The decision has left the victim's family and many members of the public questioning the strength of the justice system in dealing with violent youth offenses.

Outside the courthouse, the victim's father addressed reporters, expressing his disappointment with the outcome. "The magistrate made clear that she was looking at sending a message," he said. "But to give a slap on the wrist is really a slap in the face of everybody." He also revealed that the emotional toll of the incident led him to a suicide attempt, emphasizing the deep trauma the family continues to endure.

Medical reports confirmed the extent of the boy's injuries. He required metal plates and screws to repair his fractured jaw and suffered brain bleeding, with doctors warning of long-term consequences, including potential traumatic brain damage. According to family statements, the victim continues to struggle with seizures and psychological distress months after the attack.

The court also heard that the same attacker had confronted the victim in a previous incident just three weeks earlier, grabbing him in a school toilet while demanding a vape. That event led to a two-day suspension. The 15-year-old had a documented history of violent behavior, having been suspended **11 times** from **Aveley Secondary College**, with seven of those suspensions linked to intimidation and physical assault of other students.

The teen's legal representative stated during sentencing that his client panicked after realizing the severity of his actions and was "extremely sorry" for the harm caused. However, the remorse offered in court did little to comfort the victim's father, who believes the justice system has failed to adequately respond to violent youth crime.

Public concern continues to grow over what many see as soft sentencing practices in response to serious acts of violence committed by minors. The case has reignited discussions about legal accountability, repeat offending in schools, and the adequacy of existing disciplinary measures.

As the young victim continues to recover, his family is calling for stronger action to protect students from violence and for justice systems that reflect the seriousness of such attacks. The case underscores the need for a broader review of how courts balance rehabilitation with accountability, particularly when dealing with repeat juvenile offenders.