



Supreme Court Will Hear Case About Vaccine Side Effects

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The Supreme Court will decide whether drug makers can be sued by parents who claim their children suffered serious health problems from vaccines. As reported by the [Associated Press](#), the Court agreed to hear an appeal from parents who want to sue Wyeth over the serious side effects their daughter, six months old at the time, allegedly suffered as a result of the company's diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccine. The lower court ruled against the parents, and said a 1986 federal law bars their claims.

The idea behind the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act was to ensure a stable supply of childhood vaccines by shielding drug makers from most lawsuits, and setting up a federal vaccine court to handle disputes. The law would serve to block state laws that otherwise would give families the ability to sue the manufacturers. The case is *Bruesewitz v. Wyeth*, 09-152.

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