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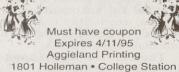


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Judge dismisses Dow Chemical from implant verdi

□ Dow Corning Corp. will now be liable for the verdict once shared by both companies.

HOUSTON (AP) — A state district judge decided Tuesday to dismiss Dow Chemical from a \$5.2 million breast implant verdict, scoring a critical victory for the half-owner of Dow Corning

In a one-page letter to lawyers, Judge Michael Schneider said he has "disregarded" jurors' Feb. 15 finding that Dow Chemical gave Dow Corning "substantial encouragement or assistance" in marketing the implants using inadequately tested materials.

Following a 10-week trial,

Dow Chemical only had been found liable on that one issue of five the jury had to consider.

'I think it vindicates the position that my client took which was that Dow Chemical was not a proper party in the silicone implant litigation,' said Richard Josephson, attorney for Dow Chemical.

The initial verdict has been troubling to both sides because on one hand, jurors found no negligence or implant defect, but on the other, they found Dow Chemical should be made liable because they provided assistance in marketing a product that Dow Corning did not adequately test.

Schneider's decision now undercuts the hairline triumph trumpeted by plaintiffs lawyers last month when jurors found Dow Chemical Co. liable for the first time in breast implant liti-

Dow Corning will now bear the entire amount of the verdict won by retired Bellville nurse Gladys Laas and her husband.

This confirms what we have been saying all along — that Dow Chemical did nothing wrong and caused no harm to the plaintiffs," said John Scriven, general counsel for Dow Chemical. "There is no basis upon which to hold us in the breast implant litigation.

The initial verdict has been confusing for both parties on both sides because jurors did not find either company negligent and found nothing for El Paso cardiologist and co-plaintiff,

Jennifer Ladner.

Rick Laminack, attorne Laas, said he was still pl that the finding against Corning was to stand.

The judges decided to the largest actual da against Dow Corning i breast implant case in th tory," Laminack said. "

very significant. Apparently the judge troubled by some failure to swer yes to some issues i ing Dow Corning that appeals Ar to be inconsistent to the THE B.

Chemical issue. Dow Chemical of Mid Mich., and Corning In Corning, N.Y., each ow percent of Dow Corning, made silicone breast impl from 1964-1992.

COUSELINE

Listening, defining alternatives keys to solving problem

Compiled By Dr. Andrew Smith

When helping a friend with a personal

problem, the key is listening. Listening means focusing attention on the thoughts, words and feelings of another. Listening involves considering another per-

son's concerns from his or her point of view. Often we are tempted to give advice. We give advice with a sincere desire to make the person feel better. Yet advice could be useless, especially when it is given before the other person has the opportunity to talk about the problem and express his or her feelings.

Listening often seems passive, as if we are not doing anything. Yet there are ways of listening which can seem more active.

By looking directly at people, they can experience your careful and attentive listening. You can make comments summarizing what the other person has said, communicating that you are listening and understanding.

You can ask questions to help clarify statements. You can move physically closer to express comfort, support and empathy. If the person rejects what you have to say, you may want to ask yourself if you are listening carefully.

The second most important part of helping is creating an atmosphere where the other person can express feelings of sadness, anger or despair.

Often we are tempted to cut off feelings by making reassuring statements that everything will be all right. As we experience the discomfort of those we care about, our first reaction is to do or say something to help them feel better. Nevertheless, the other person needs to express these feelings and have them accepted.

At times, sitting quietly with others as they cry is all that is needed. Your understanding and support is often more important than words.

One way to help people be more aware of their feelings is to ask, "How did you feel when such and such happened? The third important aspect of helping is

defining alternatives and carefully considering the consequences of each There are usually several options in any

situation, although some may seem unacceptable.

For example, the person who failed an exam has several options: tutoring, developing new study habits, rearranging schedules, creating more study time, talking with the professor, changing majors, dropping out of school and several others

Some of these may be unrealistic options if they conflict with other goals

The final step is determining a specific

Although we can help define the alternatives and clarify the consequences, the final decision needs to remain with the other per-At times it is tempting to encourage a particular solution.

Unless the other person can commit to a specific plan, nothing is likely to happen and the problem will remain unresolved.

Listening, encouraging the express feelings, defining alternatives and dev ing a plan are not always necessary or propriate. Sometimes people do not ned utions, just someone to listen.

Often we hope a person will feel better ter talking with us. It's almost as if he helpful is synonymous with feeling better.

Unfortunately, this is not always case, especially when a person is suffer the loss of a significant relationship. Us ly the grace period lasts four to six weeks the case of death, that time is much long

One way to help the person grieving communicate the appropriateness of the tion. As we give support and understand over a period of time, the other persons to establish new meaningful relationshi You may find yourself helping at

who cannot define specific concerns, and carry out any defined option, consta comes to you about the same problem continues to be upset without trying to solve the problem. You might want to say, "We have be

talking about this same problem fort months and nothing seems to be chan for you, but I'm at a loss as to what to it know now that I can't help you. In such a case, you probably need to

gest professional counseling.

you are a currently enrolled Te A&M student and would like to talk to so one about helping a friend, contact the dent Counseling Service in Henderson or call 845-4427

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