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Major League Baseball

2-year-old girl hit by foul ball at Astros game suffered skull fracture, attorney says

By Jake Russell

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The 2-year-old girl who was hit by a foul ball at a Houston Astros game in May suffered a fractured skull and had a seizure, a news release about the incident and child's medical condition stated Wednesday. The girl also suffered associated subdural bleeding, brain contusions and brain edema.

The child was rushed from the game to a hospital, where she had the seizure and remained for several days, according to the release. She is taking medication to prevent seizures and continues to recover at home.

"The Astros continue to send our thoughts and prayers to the young girl and her family," an Astros spokesman told The Washington Post in an email. "We continue to respect the family's request for privacy and have no further comment at this time."

The child's family has been consulting with Houston attorney Richard Mithoff about the incident, stated the release, which was sent from Mithoff's office. Mithoff sent a letter to Astros owner Jim Crane, letting the organization know he had been retained, along with another attorney, to represent the girl's family. The letter to the Astros also included details on the girl's injuries and condition.

"The Astros' risk management representative reached out to the family, and now that the family is represented by counsel, I wanted to let the other side know that I am involved so that they can get in touch with me," Mithoff told the Houston Chronicle. "It's not unusual to let the other party know when one party has retained counsel."

The Chicago White Sox and Washington Nationals have this season announced plans to extend safety netting down to both foul poles amid concerns about fan safety. Dodgers CEO and president Stan Kasten has also said the Los Angeles Dodgers will extend the netting at Dodger Stadium.

The Astros said Tuesday they will conduct their own study of adding extra netting at Minute Maid Park and would not commit to extending it this season.

"We are going to look at what options we could have, potentially for the end of the season but not necessarily during this season," Astros senior vice president of marketing and communications Anita Sehgal said, per the Chronicle.

In a phone interview with The Post on Wednesday night, Mithoff called Crane a "very responsible owner."

"And I hope and I believe moving forward that Jim will make the right decisions," he said.

The girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap when she was hit in the back of the head by a foul ball during a game against the Chicago Cubs at Minute Maid Park in late May. Albert Almora Jr., the Cubs player who hit the foul ball, couldn't contain his emotions as he watched the situation unfold. He crouched at home plate and was consoled by teammate Jason Heyward and Cubs Manager Joe Maddon. Shortly after, he went over to the section where the girl was hit and was consoled by a member of the stadium's security staff.

"Obviously, I want to put a net around the whole stadium," Almora said after the game.

The girl's family has a "concern about making sure this doesn't happen again," Mithoff told The Post.

When asked if the family wants the Astros to pay for the child's medical bills, Mithoff said he is giving the family some space as she recovers, but that they will "discuss possible options moving forward" in the future.

"I want to give [the Astros] a chance to make the right decision," Mithoff told The Post, when asked whether he was disappointed that the team had not yet committed to extending the netting. "I'll just leave it at that."

