

State Officials Sued for Violating Camp Mystic Campers and Counselors’ Constitutional Rights

Camp Lacked State-Law Mandated Evacuation Plan but Passed Annual Inspections

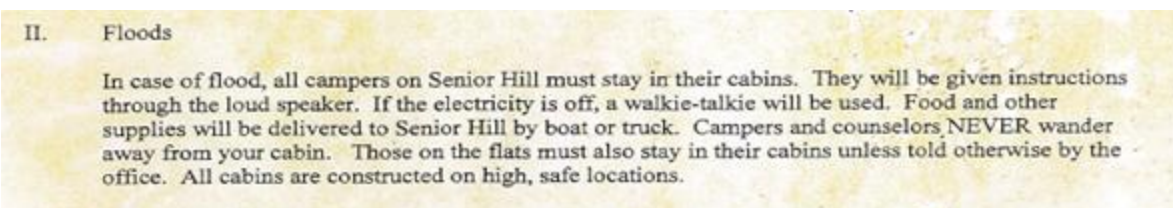
Austin, Texas — The parents of nine Camp Mystic campers and counselors who died in the July 4, 2025 flood filed **suit** (link to suit) Monday in federal court against six officials of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), alleging violations of their daughters’ constitutional rights to life and bodily integrity.

The lawsuit claims DSHS licensed Camp Mystic despite its failure to comply with state law requiring youth camps to maintain a written and posted evacuation plan for each building. Instead, the camp’s emergency instructions directed campers to remain in their cabins during a flood — including cabins located in designated flood zones along the Guadalupe River.

According to the complaint, DSHS inspected and licensed the nearly century-old camp annually, including two days before the flood that killed 27 campers and counselors. The suit alleges officials knowingly licensed the camp despite the absence of a legally required evacuation plan. Attorneys Paul Yetter and Richard Mithoff of Houston said that, while Camp Mystic is responsible, so are the DSHS officials for licensing the camp despite its failure to maintain the evacuation plan that state law requires.

“The DSHS officials responsible for licensing youth camps deliberately looked the other way,” said attorney Paul Yetter. “While Camp Mystic bears responsibility and is also being sued, state officials knew the emergency plan lacked a required evacuation component and still licensed the camp as safe.”

Under Texas law, DSHS must ensure youth camps have a written disaster plan that includes evacuation procedures for each occupied building before issuing a license. The lawsuit alleges Camp Mystic had no such evacuation plan and instead instructed campers to stay in cabins during flooding.



On July 4, campers and counselors in several cabins were not evacuated. They were told to stay in their cabins under the camp's plan. As a result, twenty-seven girls died when floodwaters swept through the camp.

The defendants include DSHS Commissioner Jennifer Shuford and five other agency officials involved in camp oversight and inspection.

The lawsuit alleges that by failing to enforce state safety laws, these DSHS officials "consciously and recklessly" endangered the children the laws were designed to protect.

Camp Mystic's license has not been revoked. It remains valid through March 6, 2026, and the camp has announced plans to reopen this summer.

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About Yetter Coleman:

[Yetter Coleman](#) is a single-mission, single-office commercial trial boutique based in Houston, Texas. We represent clients in high-stakes litigation arising in industries that span the breadth of the U.S. economy, from energy to transportation to financial services and technology, in work involving contracts, business torts, corporate governance, intellectual property, antitrust, and securities.

We represent clients at every stage of proceedings, from initial negotiations through motion practice, discovery, trial, and appeals.

About Mithoff Law:

Mithoff Law was founded in 1984 by top personal injury lawyer Richard Warren Mithoff. He has earned a national reputation for being one of the "Top 10" lawyers in the state for his work in personal injury and business litigation, beginning in 1973 with legendary trial lawyer Joe Jamail. Mithoff and his team at Mithoff Law are sought out by a broad range of clients in need of personal injury representation and commercial litigation, whether a family devastated by wrongful death or a Fortune 500 company involved in complex commercial litigation.