

orlandosentinel.com/news/local/breakingnews/os-one-legged-man-loses-to-hoa-20100525,0,429896.story

OrlandoSentinel.com

Amputee loses fight with condo board

By Rene Stutzman, Orlando Sentinel

5:29 PM EDT, May 25, 2010

SANFORD – Two years ago, Florida's attorney general sued a Longwood condo association on behalf of Kent Nauman, an amputee who complained that he was the victim of discrimination.

He walked his two dachshunds using 24-foot leashes, breaking a condo rule that leashes be no longer than 4 feet. He argued that he needed the extra length because he uses a prosthetic right leg.

A judge last week ruled against Nauman and in favor of the Springwood Village Condominium Association of Longwood Inc.

Nauman, 59, had argued that the association retaliated against him because of an earlier, now-moot decision in his favor by a state arbitrator in a disability discrimination case.

In the days that followed that ruling, his suit alleged, the association removed two small statues, six or seven potted plants from near his home and rose cuttings that he was tending.

Those things may have happened, the association conceded, but not because he's disabled, because they were in common areas which the association – not individual residents – maintain.

The associations' attorney, Tara Tamoney, would not comment Tuesday.

Although the suit was filed in 2008 by the civil rights division of the Florida's attorney general's office, that agency withdrew from the case more than a year ago, leaving Nauman to

serve as his own lawyer.

The attorney general's office would not say Tuesday why it withdrew from the case.

Nauman said it was because of a dispute over how he wanted to answer questions in a deposition.

Nauman, a former physician, suffers from schizophrenia, a mental illness sometimes characterized by delusions and hallucinations, and has had a long-running dispute with the condo association over a variety of issues, including bylaws and how it deals with contractors. He served on its board in 2002 and 2003.

In his deposition in this case, he described the condo board as "a coven of Satanists," something he repeated in an interview Tuesday.

Nauman said he plans to appeal the ruling, handed down May 18 by Seminole-Brevard Circuit Judge Clayton D. Simmons.

In the meantime, Nauman said, he would continue to walk his dogs using 24-foot leashes.

Rene Stutzman can be reached at rstutzman@orlandosentinel.com or 407-650-6394.

Copyright © 2010, [Orlando Sentinel](http://www.orlandosentinel.com)