

## Parents sue over death at dentist's

By [Auslan Cramb](#), Scotland Correspondent

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THE parents of a 10-year-old boy [who died while having a tooth extracted](#) are to sue the two men they blame for their son's death.

Darren Denholm died in October 1998 after a heart attack while undergoing treatment at the Peffermill Dental Clinic in Edinburgh.

A fatal accident inquiry found that the anaesthetist, John Evans-Appiah, 58, made a series of errors and then panicked and took the wrong action when Darren collapsed. He also failed to take the schoolboy's full medical history, and did not explain the risks of anaesthesia.

He [has since been struck off by the General Medical Council](#), which found him guilty of 17 charges of incompetence and neglect.

A month later the General Dental Council [banned Maurice Beckett, the clinic's owner, from dentistry](#). He had employed Evans-Appiah, a Ghanaian with no British qualifications, without looking at his CV, and was said by a sheriff to be "uninterested" in the boy's death.

Isla Denholm, 33, and her husband Wayne, 32, from Armadale, West Lothian, have lodged a civil action at the Court of Session in Edinburgh against the two men, and against the Kent-based Poggo Anaesthetics, which supplied Evans-Appiah to the clinic.

Mrs Denholm said they were taking legal action for the sake of their nine-year-old daughter Amanda. "Amanda was just six years old when her brother died and I know how much she misses him," she said. "She still talks about him, remembering the happy times.

"I know you can't put a price on a child's life and no amount of money can compensate for Darren's loss, but this money could make a lot of difference for his little sister."

The schoolboy was meant to go to the Peffermill Clinic the day before his death, but injured his knee playing football and missed his appointment.

"They saw him the next day instead, the day John Evans-Appiah had been employed as the locum anaesthetist," said Mrs Denholm. "I believe that if only Darren had kept his original appointment he would still be alive today."

No date has been set for the action.

[24 November 2000: Dentist is struck off over death of boy, 10](#)

[24 October 2000: Doctor is struck off over death of boy at dentist](#)

[4 October 2000: I watched boy die, nurse tells tribunal](#)

[14 October 1998: Boy, 10, dies after visit to dentist](#)