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## Motel guests sue over peepholes

BREWTON, Ala. (AP) — Several lawsuits claim operators of a Days Inn in Brewton were negligent in allowing someone to drill peepholes in the walls of some rooms.

Two Decatur couples and a Jefferson County woman who stayed at the motel have sued over the peepholes. Representatives of the motel denied knowing the holes existed before they were reported, according to the suits filed recently in Escambia County. They also denied knowing how they came about.

The suits name Dipanan Inc., Sarju Patel of Brewton and Days Inns Worldwide Inc. of Parsippany, N.J.

A hearing is set for May 25, with no trial date scheduled.

In June 2001, Charles Moye and his wife, Elsa, traveled to Brewton with their son, Andy Moye, and his wife and children to attend a family reunion, staying at the Days Inn on U.S. 31.

Andy Moye saw a "flash" in the mirror as his wife stood in their room after leaving the shower, according to the lawsuit. The next morning, he removed the mirror from the wall and found a hole drilled in the wallboard and a corresponding scratch on the back of the mirror.

The suit further states that Moye poked a coffee stirrer into the hole and found a wet putty material had been used to cover the other end of the hole.

The Moyes called police, who found the hole when they entered a utility corridor running along one wall of the rooms. The corridor is designed to be used by staff for maintenance.

Brewton Police Chief Mickey Lovelace said his officers did find the hole, and that it was covered with a putty material. He questioned why the Moyes were looking for the hole in the first place.

Mobile attorney R. "Tucker" Yance, who represents the Moyes and Julie Mummert, who stayed at the motel in March, 2003 and subsequently sued when she learned of the peepholes, said the cases are "disturbing." Mummert and each of the Moye couples have filed separate lawsuits.

"Our investigation found peepholes drilled at eye level in more than two rooms," Yance said.

Attorney Augustine Meaher of Mobile, who represents the hotel management, said his clients had no knowledge of the holes or how they got there.

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