



Yale University sued for alleged discrimination against students with mental health disabilities



AMANDA SU

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Yale University sued for alleged discrimination against students with mental health disabilities

Two Yale University students and Elis for Rachel, an advocacy and support group at the university, filed a lawsuit against the school Wednesday, alleging the school discriminates against students with mental health disabilities by failing to provide necessary accommodations and pressuring them to withdraw.

The lawsuit, seeking class-action status from the U.S. District Court of Connecticut, features accounts by two current

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the consequences of withdrawing from Yale in multiple online posts prior to her death.

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The plaintiffs argue the university's withdrawal policies foster a punitive rather than supportive environment for students with mental health disabilities, deterring many from seeking help. Their accounts detail the "traumatic" experiences of being forced to leave school, then the hurdles they had to clear just to return.

If students disclose their mental health disability while seeking support and demonstrate severe symptoms, the university has often pressured them to voluntarily withdraw until they can apply for reinstatement at least a semester later. If the students refused, the university's policies allow for "involuntary withdrawals," forcing students to take leave without "deference to treating professionals or consideration of whether withdrawal will cause harm," the lawsuit says.

After they were hospitalized for self-harm, multiple students, including Hannah Neves and Nicolette Mantica, alleged that Yale officials visited them in the hospital and notified them they would likely be withdrawn from the university.



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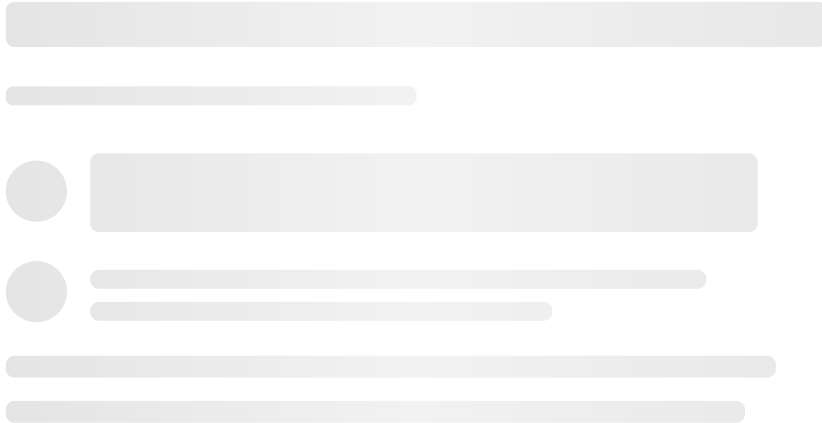
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PHOTO: A tour group makes a stop at the Sterling Memorial Library on the Yale University campus, June 12, 2015, in New Haven, Conn. (Craig Warga/Bloomberg via Getty Images)

In some students' cases, the lawsuit says Yale officials

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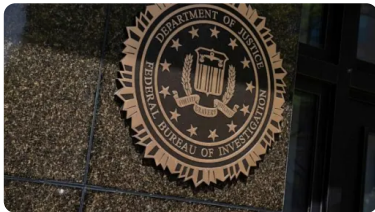
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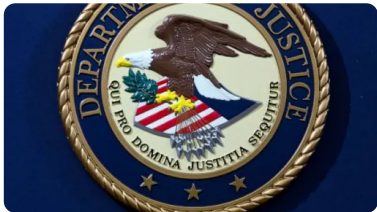
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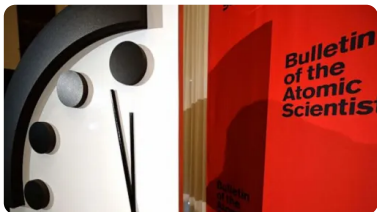
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