

JURY AWARDS \$540,000 AGAINST CITY OF MIDWEST CITY IN SEWER BACKUP CASE

Trial Lawyers Jim Buxton and Spencer Habletzuel Secure Significant Verdict for Oklahoma Homeowners

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. — October 2026 — On Thursday, October 8, 2026, an Oklahoma jury returned a \$540,000 verdict against the City of Midwest City in a lawsuit involving repeated sewage backups into a residential home. Trial lawyers Jim Buxton and Spencer Habletzuel represented the homeowners in the case, which involved years of litigation and a successful appeal before ultimately reaching a jury.

The lawsuit arose from repeated sewage backups into the plaintiffs' home caused by a defective municipal sewer line owned and operated by the City of Midwest City. The homeowners purchased their residence in 2021 and subsequently experienced multiple sewage backups. Evidence established that the property had also experienced sewage backups under its previous ownership.

The City argued that the homeowners' private sewer connection was illegal because it could not locate historical permitting records for the connection, which dated back decades. The plaintiffs maintained that the sewage originated from the City's sewer main and that the City should be held responsible for the resulting damage and disruption to their lives.

The trial court initially granted summary judgment in favor of Midwest City. That decision was reversed on appeal, allowing the homeowners to present their case to a jury. Following trial, the jury awarded the plaintiffs \$540,000 in damages.

"This case was about something pretty simple," said Buxton. "When a city owns and operates a sewer system, it has a responsibility to the people who depend on that system. These homeowners didn't cause the problem, but they were the ones forced to live with the consequences. They deserved better."

"A home is supposed to be a place where people feel safe and comfortable," Buxton added. "Nobody should have to live with the fear that sewage may come backing up into their home again. And when that happens repeatedly, the disruption, inconvenience, and loss of peace of mind are very real."

About Buxton Law Group

Buxton Law Group is an Oklahoma City trial law firm representing individuals and families in personal injury, medical negligence, insurance bad faith, and other civil litigation matters. Founder Jim Buxton has more than 25 years of experience and has tried more than 50 jury cases to verdict. He has extensive experience litigating municipal sewer backup claims.

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