Porn Empire Must Defend Itself Against Actors' HIV Lawsuits

Kink.com's insurance company is not responsible for these litigation costs, says a federal judge. Here's why.

December 20, 2017

San Francisco–based porn factory Kink.com is responsible for the costs of defending itself against lawsuits brought by three actors who claim they contracted HIV while making adult films in 2013 for the company, Court House News reports.

The actors—two men and one woman—sued the company in 2014. The next year, Atain Specialty Insurance Company sued Kink.com's CEO Peter Acworth, claiming that Atain was not responsible for litigation costs related to lawsuits brought by former actors.

Last week, U.S. District Judge James Donata agreed with Atain because a "physical-sexual abuse exclusion" exempts Atain from covering claims resulting from sexual activity.

A few weeks earlier, another judge had ruled that State Compensation Insurance Fund doesn't have to defend Kink.com in HIV-related lawsuits.

When the claims by the actors were initially filed, an attorney for Kink.com said, "None of these claims were made at the time of the shoots and are easily refuted both by the detailed shoot records, our testing protocols and the video footage itself."

One actor in the lawsuit claims he was blindfolded in a film and forced to perform oral sex on dozens of "untested, unidentified members of the general public." He claims he had a cut in his mouth at the time of the shoot and tested positive for HIV two weeks after making the movie, according to the newspaper.

Acworth, who is British, purchased the San Francisco Armory, a former National Guard training facility designed in the style of a Moorish castle, a decade ago for $14.5 million, Court House News reports. He used the facility as a studio but will stop filming adult movies at the site because the availability of free adult entertainment online has decreased demand for paid content.

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.