



(AP) The Minnesota Supreme Court says a man's online post calling a doctor ``a real tool" is protected speech. The high court on Wednesday dismissed a case by Duluth neurologist David McKee, who took offense when a patient's son posted critical remarks about him on some rate-your-doctor websites. Those included a claim that a nurse called the doctor ``a real tool."

The justices say the comments posted by Dennis Laurion don't add up to defamation. They say referring to someone as ``a real tool" is a protected statement of opinion that can't be the basis of a defamation claim. They also say it doesn't matter whether the unnamed nurse actually exists.

The decision reverses a Minnesota Court of Appeals decision that would have let the doctor's lawsuit proceed to trial.