

Fatal Alabama School Bus Accident Sparks Safety Push

On behalf of Johnston, Moore & Thompson

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The school year has begun, and students will be attending various school functions. It's a normal part of being a high school student, and athletes will board school buses on a regular basis to get to and from games and events.

Last Friday, an Alabama family sent their son on a bus trip, and he was killed in a serious [car accident](#). Investigators are still looking into the details of the crash that killed the one 15-year-old student and injured various others.

According to reports, there were four people in the vehicle responsible for the wreck. Authorities claim that the suspects are not fully cooperating with the investigation; they will not identify who was driving the car at the time of the bus accident. For that reason, the suspects will reportedly be charged with obstruction of justice.

Because it is so early since the accident occurred, there is no word about anyone connected to the incident filing personal injury or wrongful death lawsuits. It would help for police to identify who the driver was first.

Depending on whether officials find drugs or alcohol in the suspects' systems, the driver (once identified) could be charged with vehicular homicide. If the state proves that criminal negligence resulted in the crash, injuries and death of the Alabama teen, personal injury suits would have little trouble meeting success.

The sheriff in Clarke County has commented on the case. He believes the accident is an example of why school buses should have seat belts on them. "I've always had a problem with school buses not having seat belts."

In this incident, the school bus flipped over. Perhaps the students would have suffered fewer and/or less severe injuries if they had been buckled up. There was a trooper ahead of the bus and a deputy following it. But the accident still happened, injuring kids. Accidents will happen, but seat belts can prevent injuries in such unfortunate instances.

When sending a child out with a school-sponsored event, most parents would not expect that their child would get hurt. In this case, the 15-year-old victim was killed. It is an unthinkable outcome that the victim's family and the entire community now live with.

Maybe seat belts could have helped, but U.S. officials recently made a decision regarding school buses and seat belts that the sheriff in this case is likely unhappy with. We will discuss the decision in the upcoming post and also post an update if there are developments in this case.

Source

Wtok.com: "[West Alabama Sheriff Discusses Bus Crash](#)," Chip Scarborough, Sep. 5, 2011