

Martin County

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Settlement final in crash that killed 4

Victim's family reportedly gets multimillion dollar deal after daughter's death in 2000 accident in Stuart

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STUART — A settlement has been reached in the third and final auto negligence suit springing from a December 2000 traffic accident that killed four children.

The settlement comes almost six years after Palm City couple Jennifer and Kenneth Brennan filed suit against the driver in the accident, Charles E. McComas Jr., his parents and the leasing agent that owned the car McComas was driving. The Brennans' 14-year-old daughter, Alicia, died in the accident.

The Brennans' attorney, Gary Lesser, said the settlement between the McComas and Brennan families is confidential but in the multi-million dollar range.

"It's a sad situation for the family, but it's good it has come to a close for

them," Lesser said.

McComas, now 22, was only 15 and did not have a driver's license when he took his parents' Audi and drove some friends around in the early morning hours of Dec. 3, 2000. He accidentally crashed the car into two trees on Pine Tree Lane near the Rustic Hills subdivision, killing four of his passengers: Alicia, Karen Victoria Morris, 13, Josh Michaels, 12, and his brother, Sam, 10. Robert Marks, 14 at the time of the crash, was seriously injured.

Lawsuits filed by the Michaels and Marks families were settled in 2002

and 2004, respectively.

Lesser said Karen and Charles E. McComas Sr. and Jennifer and Kenneth Brennan reached their settlement about a month ago, but it was only made public this week. A \$5 million final judgment against McComas, separate from the lawsuit filed against his parents, was delivered March 12.

MGM Leasing Corp., the company that owned the Audi, has filed for bankruptcy, Lesser said.

In 2001, McComas pleaded no contest to four counts of vehicular homicide, car theft and driving without a

The driver was 15 and did not have a driver's license at the time of the crash.

license and was sentenced to incarceration at a "high-risk" juvenile detention center. McComas was released on probation from the Eckerd Youth Development Center in Okeechobee when he turned 18.

An attorney for the McComas family could not be reached Thursday.