

CASE RESULTS DEPEND ON A VARIETY OF FACTORS UNIQUE TO EACH CASE AND DO NOT GUARANTEE OR PREDICT A SIMILAR RESULT IN ANY FUTURE CASE



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Title: Crash Case Leads To \$1M Judgment -
City Driver Faulted In May 2006 Fatal
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HARRISONBURG - A Rockingham County Circuit Court judge has ordered a woman to pay relatives of a man killed in a car crash last May more than \$1 million, according to the plaintiff's attorney.

Judge James Lane's ruling of \$1.083 million to relatives of Larry Eugene Snyder, 54, followed testimony in a wrongful death lawsuit on Friday, according to **Mark Obenshain**, the attorney representing the Snyder family.

Snyder, 54, was killed May 27 on U.S. 11 north of Harrisonburg when a driver crossed the centerline and crashed her pickup truck into the Snyder's BMW, authorities have said.

"It's clear that there's nothing that can fill the void that has been left by Larry Snyder's death," **Obenshain** said Monday.

"This was a very close family," he said. "The loss was clearly understood by the court."

The suit was filed against April L. Ruvalcaba of Harrisonburg, who pleaded guilty to reckless driving in connection with the crash.

Her attorney declined to comment for this story.

The Crash

Police say that on May 27, Ruvalcaba, then 25, was headed north on U.S. 11 around 8:30 a.m. when she drifted into the southbound lane and crashed into the Snyders' BMW Z3.

Snyder's wife, Deborah, who was driving, was treated for injuries and released. Larry Snyder was flown to the University of Virginia Medical Center, where he died that day, authorities have said.

In July, Ruvalcaba pleaded guilty to reckless driving in Rockingham County General District Court in connection with the wreck. She told the judge she fell asleep, according to the prosecutor in the case.

A district court judge fined her \$1,000, ordered a 60-day suspended jail sentence and suspended her license for six months, authorities have said.

Obenshain, who is a Republican state senator from Harrisonburg, said that during the bench trial, he contended that Snyder's death resulted from Ruvalcaba violating the rules of the road.

"One thing everybody took from this is that life is precious," he said. "We never know what day is going to be our last."

Contact David Reynolds at 574-6278 or reynolds@dnronline.com

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Author: DAVID REYNOLDS, Daily News-Record Section: Valley Virginia
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