

Itasca woman paralyzed in crash settles for \$15 million

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An Itasca woman paralyzed in a 2002 crash near Elmhurst will receive \$15 million from the Canadian trucking company whose driver struck the vehicle she was riding in.

Stephen Passen, the attorney for the unidentified woman, said the trucking firm agreed to the multimillion-dollar settlement this week as the two sides were getting set for a trial.

Passen said the 58-year-old

woman asked to remain unidentified, and the trucking company remains anonymous as part of the settlement agreement.

The Chicago-based lawyer said the woman's husband was driving the couple to Detroit on their 33rd wedding anniversary on Sept. 26, 2002, when they were struck from behind by a semi truck.

The crash occurred on the southbound off-ramp onto Interstate 294 from Interstate 290, Passen said.

The woman's husband died immediately from a fractured neck. The woman suffered a torn carotid artery, which caused bleeding in her brain and eventually partial paralysis. She has only recently regained some mobility on the lower half of her right side, Passen said.

No criminal charges were ever brought against the driver, who Passen claimed was fatigued from overwork at the time of the crash.

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