

Drunken Driver Causes Injuries for Young Student

Inebriated driver has three young students in his car when accident occurs.

At approximately noon on December 20, 2004, Mark Berman drove to his son's school to pick him up. Tyler Painter, a friend of Mr. Berman's son, and another child, joined Mr. Berman in his vehicle for the ride from school. At 12:49 p.m., Mr. Berman's vehicle was involved in a serious accident. The collision fractured several of Tyler's front teeth. Shockingly, the accident investigation revealed that Mr. Berman was considerably under the influence of alcohol when he drove to the school at noon. The blood samples taken from him at the hospital registered .156 and .152 grams of alcohol per 100 ml, almost twice the legal limit.

Tyler's parents, Robert and Sally Painter, were deeply concerned about the injuries sustained by Tyler in the accident, and the grossly negligent actions exhibited by Mr. Berman in driving his vehicle, with three young children as passengers, while under the influence of alcohol. Tyler's teeth were repaired. However, because of his age and the fact that the fractures involved his permanent front teeth, he will have to undergo multiple dental procedures in the future. Such an injury and the resulting change in appearance is a great concern to a boy of Tyler's age. Mr. and Mrs. Painter filed a claim against Mr. Berman and his insurance company, State Farm. John Shipley represented the Painters and their son.

In the insurance business, there are cases that clearly need to be settled and other cases that clearly need to be defended. The circumstances and the entitlement in this case were quite clear. A settlement for the bodily injury policy limit of \$100,000, and property damages of \$581, was quickly reached with the insurance company. ■

**\$100,000
Settlement:
DRUNKEN DRIVER
CAUSES SERIOUS
ACCIDENT**