

FAYETTE

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Record settlement awarded in wrongful death suit

BY CINDY MORLEY

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\$596,949...

On the eve of a wrongful death lawsuit to be heard in Fayette County State Court, a settlement was reached -- paying a now 15-year-old boy \$596,949 after his mother was killed in a car wreck more than three years ago.

The \$596,949 settlement reached last month, is the largest civil settlement in Fayette County history, surpassing a former settlement by more than \$100,000, according to Brian "Buck" Rogers, attorney for the child who was 13 when he mother, Adrienne Elaine Williams, died in the car crash on Roosevelt Highway in south Fulton County.

The defendant, Robert Thompson III, who lived in Fayette County at the time of the wreck, still faces criminal charges in Fulton County.

According to court documents, Thompson was charged with four counts: vehicular homicide, driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, reckless driving, failure to maintain lane and driving on the wrong side of the road.

A Fulton County Grand Jury returned a true bill on the charges Feb. 20, 2004, according to court documents.

Rogers filed the wrongful death suit on behalf of Adrienne Williams' son, who was 13 years old at the time of the wreck.

"This is proof that justice moves swiftly in Fayette County," said Rogers.

"It's apparent from this that Fayette County takes justice, criminal and civil, very seriously."

Fayette County State Court Judge Fletcher Sams signed order for the settlement agreement Dec. 13, 2006.

In the lawsuit, Rogers contends that Adrienne Williams was travelling southbound on Hwy 92/Roosevelt Highway on April 30, 2003 about 12:27 a.m., just south of Bishop Road.

"We allege that Robert

SUIT

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Thompson III was driving a 2000 Ford pick-up truck northbound on Hwy 92/Roosevelt Highway, when he crossed two lanes of traffic, crossed over the center lane, and hit Ms. Williams head-on," said Rogers.

Williams was pronounced dead at the scene, according to Rogers and the police reports.

"Thompson's truck flipped

and burned," said Rogers.

"Ms. Williams was a 38-year-old clerk at Racetrac, and was a single mother caring for her little boy," said Rogers.

"He (the young boy) was her sole beneficiary."

Rogers said the young boy now lives with his father in Lithonia.

According to Rogers, Thompson has since moved from Fayette County.

