
Passenger sues driver over 1991 truck crash

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Indianola, Ia. — A passenger in a pickup truck that plunged into the Des Moines River two years ago has sued the truck's driver, alleging that he was negligent.

In the lawsuit, filed Monday in Polk County District Court, Lucinda Barnes of Indianola alleges that Darryl Steeve failed to have the truck under control and failed to operate it in a careful manner when he drove it into the Des Moines River on April 7, 1991, causing Barnes and her 23-month-old son, Shane, to be thrown into the river.

Shane was swept into the current and was never found, according to the lawsuit.

Steeve, Barnes and the two other adults in the truck, Dave Harmon and Dan Goff, survived.

Barnes claims in the lawsuit that she sustained injuries and bruises in the incident and that she continues to suffer emotional distress and depression from the loss of her son.

Also named as a defendant in the suit is Larry Steeve, the owner of the truck.

Darryl Steeve and Larry Steeve could not be reached for comment.

According to a sheriff's report of the incident, the four adults had been fishing and were getting ready to leave in the truck when it slid into the river.

Barnes told deputies the force of the water coming into the truck prevented her from grabbing her son. Steeve swam through a window with the child but was unable to hold on to him as the current swept him downstream, according to the report.
