

## Chrysler settles minivan case

Just days after a tragic minivan accident in Bridgeport claimed four lives, Chrysler settled a lawsuit involving the death of an 18-month-old Atlanta boy who died under similar circumstances in 2006. The amount and terms of the settlement are confidential.

The family of Ian Escobar sued Chrysler after Ian was run over and killed by the family's 1997 Plymouth Voyager Minivan on June 6, 2006. Ian's brother, Gabriel, 4, shifted the vehicle out of park causing it to roll over Ian.

The family's lawsuit alleged that the vehicle was defective because, unlike most cars, the vehicle did not have a "brake shift interlock" device that prevents it from being shifted out of park unless the brake pedal is depressed. Chrysler did not install the safety feature on its vehicles until 2001. Connecticut police are investigating whether the lack of a brake shift interlock played a role in the Bridgeport accident.

Chrysler's failure to incorporate a brake shift interlock device in its minivan's has prompted a number of lawsuits against the company and resulted in a 4.5 million dollar verdict against the automaker in

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