

RETURN DATE: APRIL 23, 2024 : SUPERIOR COURT
:
MARIBEL RODRIGUEZ : JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF
ADMINISTRATRIX OF THE ESTATE : HARTFORD
OF KATHERINE COLON and :
DAVID SAWYER, JR., PPA MARIBEL : AT HARTFORD
RODRIGUEZ :
:
VS. :
:
CONNOR REINSCH AND CITY :
OF NEW BRITIAN : MARCH 11, 2024

PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT

**FIRST COUNT: (Maribel Rodriguez, Administratrix of the Estate of Katherine Colon
as against defendants Connor Reinsch and City of New Britain –
Negligence/Wrongful Death)**

1. On September 21, 2023, at approximately 1:00 a.m., the plaintiff's decedent, Katherine Colon, was walking on West Main Street in New Britain, Connecticut, which is a public street or highway in New Britain, Connecticut.

2. At said time and place the defendant, Connor Reinsch, was operating a police cruiser owned by the defendant, City of New Britain, as the agent, servant, and/or employee of the defendant, City of New Britain, and was acting within the course and scope of his employment as a police officer with the City of New Britain Police Department.

3. At said time and place, Connor Reinsch, while attempting to respond to a burglary call, drove the police cruiser westbound on West Main Street at an excessive rate of speed, with no lights and sirens on, and collided with a pedestrian, plaintiff's decedent, Katherine Colon.

4. The collision and the personal injuries and losses sustained and suffered by the plaintiff's decedent, Katherine Colon, were caused by the negligence and carelessness of the defendant Connor Reinsch, for which the defendant City of New Britain is liable, in one or more of the following ways:

- (a) in that he operated an emergency motor vehicle without due regard for the safety of all persons and property, in violation of the duty of reasonable care in violation of C.G.S. Sec. 14-283(d);
- (b) in that he operated his motor vehicle at a rate of speed greater than is reasonable having regard to the width, traffic, and use of the highway, the intersection of streets, and weather conditions, in violation of C.G.S. Sec. 14-218(a);
- (c) in that he allowed himself to be distracted while operating his motor vehicle;
- (d) in that he failed to keep a proper lookout for pedestrians on the roadway;
- (e) in that he failed to slow his motor vehicle in a prompt and safe manner so as to avoid the collision;
- (f) in that he did not apply his brakes in sufficient time to avoid colliding with the plaintiff's decedent;
- (g) in that he failed to keep his motor vehicle under proper and reasonable control;

- (h) in that he failed to act under the circumstances with reasonable and prudent care for the safety and welfare of others as would be exercised under the same or similar circumstances by a reasonable and prudent person; and
- (i) in that he failed to sound his horn or otherwise to warn of his approach and impending collision.

5. As a further result thereof, the plaintiff's decedent, Katherine Colon, was transported to the Hospital of Central Connecticut where she later died at approximately 1:52 AM.

6. As a further result thereof, the plaintiff's decedent, Katherine Colon, suffered severe physical and mental pain prior to her death.

7. As a further result thereof, the plaintiff's decedent, Katherine Colon, suffered the complete destruction of her ability to enjoy life.

8. As a further result thereof, the plaintiff's decedent, Katherine Colon's earning capacity, was completely destroyed.

9. As a further result thereof, the Estate of Katherine Colon ("Estate") has incurred medical expenses, funeral and burial expenses, resulting in loss to the Estate.

10. As a further result thereof, the defendants are liable to the Estate for the injuries and damages caused by the negligence of the defendants pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-555 *et seq.*

**SECOND COUNT: (Maribel Rodriguez, Administratrix of the Estate of Katherine Colon,
as against defendants Connor Reinsch and City of New Britain –
Recklessness/Wrongful Death)**

1-10. Paragraphs 1 through 10 of the First Count are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1 through 10 of the Second Count as if fully set forth herein.

11. Plaintiff's decedent, Katherine Colon's injuries and losses were caused by the recklessness of defendant Connor Reinsch in one or more of the following ways:

(a) in that, at the time of the collision, he drove his motor vehicle into the intersection while at a rate of speed of approximately 60 miles per hour, in a 25 miles per hour zone, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stats. Secs. 14-299(b)(3) and 14-218(a);

(b) in that he operated an emergency motor vehicle in reckless disregard for the safety of all persons and property, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stats. Sec. 14-283(d); and

(c) in that he operated a motor vehicle upon a public highway recklessly and with disregard for the safety of others traveling upon the highway, including the plaintiff's decedent, having regard to the width, traffic and use of such highway, the intersection of streets, and the weather conditions, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stats. Sec. 14-222.

12. The defendant Connor Reinsch's reckless conduct as aforesaid was a substantial factor in causing the aforesaid personal injuries, losses and death suffered by Katherine Colon.

13. The defendant is liable to the Estate for the injuries and damages caused by his recklessness pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-555 *et seq.*

THIRD COUNT: (Maribel Rodriguez, Administratrix of the Estate of Katherine Colon as against defendant Connor Reinsch– Violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 14-295/Wrongful Death)

1-10. Paragraphs 1 through 10 of the First Count are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1 through 10 of the Third Count as if fully set forth herein.

11. Plaintiff's decedent, Katherine Colon's injuries and losses were caused by the recklessness of defendant Connor Reinsch because he deliberately or with reckless disregard operated a motor vehicle in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. Secs. 14-218a, and 14-222 in that:

(a) he operated the vehicle he was driving at a rate of speed of approximately 60 miles per hour which was faster than reasonable having regard for the width, traffic, and use of said highway and other conditions then and there prevailing, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 14-218a; and
(b) he operated the vehicle he was driving recklessly, having regard to the width, traffic, use and conditions of such highway, in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 14-222.

12. The defendant Connor Reinsch's reckless conduct as aforesaid was a substantial factor causing the aforesaid personal injuries, losses and death sustained by plaintiff's decedent, Katherine Colon.

13. The defendant is liable to the Estate for the injuries and damages caused by the negligence of the defendant pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-555 *et seq.*

FOURTH COUNT: (David Sawyer, Jr., PPA Maribel Rodriguez as against all defendants – Loss of Parental Consortium)

1-10. Paragraphs 1 through 10 of the First Count are hereby incorporated as paragraphs 1 through 10 of the Fourth Count as if fully set forth herein.

11. Plaintiff David Sawyer, Jr. is a minor child; this action on his behalf is brought by his older sister, Maribel Rodriguez.

12. As a result of the negligence of the defendants, plaintiff David Sawyer, Jr. has been permanently deprived of the comfort, association, and consortium of his mother.

13. As a further result of the negligence of the defendants, plaintiff David Sawyer, Jr. has been permanently deprived of the financial support of his mother.

FIFTH COUNT: (Maribel Rodriguez, Administratrix of the Estate of Katherine Colon and David Sawyer, Jr., PPA Maribel Rodriguez as against defendant City of New Britain – Negligent Hiring, Training and Retention of Connor Reinsch)

1–10. Paragraphs 1 through 10 of Count One are hereby incorporated as Paragraphs 1 through 10 of this Count Five.

11. At all times mentioned herein, the defendant City of New Britain, through its agents, apparent-agents, servants, and/or employees, was responsible for hiring, training, monitoring and/or supervising the defendant Connor Reinsch.

12. The City of New Britain breached their duty to use reasonable care by failing to hire, train, and/or retain an employee that was competent and fit for the position.

13. The subject collision on September 21, 2023, was caused by the negligent training, hiring, management and/or supervision of the defendant City of New Britain, its agents, servants, and/or employees, in one or more of the following ways:

- a. IN THAT the defendant failed to adequately supervise Connor Reinsch;
- b. IN THAT the defendant failed to monitor the activities conducted and/or performed by Connor Reinsch;

- c. IN THAT the defendant failed to adequately train Connor Reinsch;
- d. IN THAT the defendant failed to implement and/or enforce safety policies and procedures and/or guidelines; and
- e. IN THAT the defendant failed to train Connor Reinsch how to appropriately follow the rules of the road concerning speed limits and/or responding to calls.

PLAINTIFFS

BY: 

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TO THE CLERK:

PLEASE ENTER THE FOLLOWING APPEARANCES FOR THE PLAINTIFFS:

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CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

Plaintiff claims compensatory damages against defendants Connor Reinsch and the City of New Britain and further claims common law and statutory punitive damages pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 14-295 against defendant Connor Reinsch, in an amount in excess of Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000.00) Dollars as against each defendant, together with the costs of this action.



JOAQUIN L. MADRY