

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RILEY JOHNSON
(Plaintiff – father/mother of Ash Johnson)

[Note: Do not let anyone see these instructions.]

1. Case Summary

Your son/daughter, Ash Johnson, was killed on October 1, [-1] riding his/her Honda motorcycle in the dry riverbed of the Ronson River in Springdale. The motorcycle hit a boulder in the riverbed, causing him/her to be ejected over the handlebars and face-down into the riverbed. His/Her neck was broken when the impact with the riverbed caused his/her head to be bent toward his/her chest.

At the time of the accident Ash was wearing a Best Helmet, an open-face helmet with a 3-inch stiff visor. You believe that the design of his/her helmet made the helmet unreasonably dangerous and was the cause of Ash's death.

Last week, you contacted a local law firm to see if it would take the case. You should hear from the law firm soon.

2. Personal background

You are the father/mother of Ash Johnson, who was killed in a motorcycle accident on October 1, [-1]. Your husband/wife died 5 years ago. Ash was your only child.

Ash had lived with you all his/her life, including while he/she attended the local university. He/She successfully completed his/her last course required for bachelor's degree graduation in September [-1]. He/She was looking for work when he/she died. Ash did all the work around the house and paid all bills related to the house, in return for which Ash lived rent free. You had an understanding with Ash that Ash would get the house after you died, if Ash would take care of all house expenses.

You are a high school science teacher in the local public school system. After Ash's death, you took a leave of absence from your job to deal with your depression and anger. You returned to your teaching job three months later.

3. Your story

On October 1, [-1], you were at home in the afternoon when your telephone rang. You answered the call, and a man/woman identified himself/herself as a police officer, who said that Ash Johnson had been injured in a motorcycle accident and taken to University Hospital.

You immediately drove to the ER at the hospital, where you learned that Ash had died. You were told by a police officer that Ash was riding his/her Honda motorcycle in the dry riverbed of the Ronson River when he/she hit a large rock, which ejected him/her over the handlebars, and face down into the ground, breaking his/her neck.

You left the hospital, stunned. Ash was your only child, and your husband/wife had died 5 years ago. This loss was a complete shock to your life.

In the weeks following Ash's death, you learned how and why Ash died. You learned that he/she was wearing his/her helmet, an open-face helmet with a 3-inch rigid visor made by Best Helmets. According to the death certificate from the county medical examiner's office, Ash's neck was broken when he/she fell face down in the riverbed, the visor caught the ground and jerked his/her head down, fracturing his/her cervical spine and crushing his/her spinal cord.

You did computer research and learned that open-faced helmets do not protect the face as well as full-faced helmets, and that the 3-inch visor was the cause of Ash's fatal neck injuries. You now believe that the open-face helmet with 3-inch rigid visor was the cause of Ash's injuries and that it made the helmet unreasonably dangerous.

You decided to talk to a personal injury lawyer to determine if a lawsuit could be brought against Best Helmets for causing Ash's death. The lawyer should contact you shortly.

4. Documents

You have seen, and are familiar with, the documents that are attached to these instructions. If there is a circumstance where, while you are staying in character, you would show one of the documents below to an attorney, you can do so, but you cannot show any attorney this set of instructions.

5. Instructions on role-playing

In role-playing Riley Johnson, please stay "in character" at all times. When necessary, develop details and additional facts that are consistent with your basic story.

As plaintiff, you naturally will help your lawyer in any way you can. Being plaintiff will require you to meet periodically with your lawyer for further interviews and meetings, signing an agreement with the lawyer, reviewing documents, approving pleadings, answering interrogatories and document requests, attending depositions, discussing the progress of the case, and approving any settlements.

County Sherriff's Department

Accident Report

Case No: 22-837
Responding Officer: T. Riley, #226
Date of Accident: October 1, [-1]
Location of Accident: Ronson Riverbed, East of Campbell Ave.
Persons involved in accident: Ash Johnson
Witnesses to accident: H. Smith
Citation issued: none

Narrative:

On 10/1/[-1], 1500 hrs, R/O was on routine patrol in the foothills section of the city when he/she received a radio message of an accident involving a motorcycle in the Ronson River riverbed, about ¼ mile east of Campbell bridge.

On arrival R/O observed a young male/female lying motionless in the riverbed. A Honda motorcycle lay nearby. A witness, H. Smith, was standing next to the body, and explained that he/she had been walking his/her dog in the riverbed and had seen the motorcyclist doing fast starts and "wheelies" in the riverbed, in both directions.

He/She was about 100' away, standing on the bank. He/She did several fast starts, "wheelies," and reaching about 20 mph, when the motorcycle hit a large rock, and the motorcycle stopped suddenly, ejecting the rider over the handlebars. He/She landed face down in the wash, where he/she lay motionless and unconscious. He/She then called 911 and waited for police and ambulance.

R/O called to dispatch, requesting EMT, which arrived about 5 minutes later. The motorcyclist was not breathing and had no detectable pulse. EMT took body, on stretcher, to University Hospital E.R.

Motorcycle was a Honda CBR 300 cc registered to Ash Johnson; helmet was a Best Helmet open-face with a fixed, rigid 3-inch visor. No damages to visor.

R/O searched body before taking from scene. Wallet identified him/her as Ash Johnson, 22-year-old male/female. Telephone also searched, called number for Riley Johnson, who answered and said he/she was Ash's father/mother. R/O explained the situation and told Johnson his/her son/daughter had been injured and was being taken to University Hospital.

R/O returned to station to prepare this report. While writing this report R/O learned that Ash Johnson had been pronounced DOA at University Hospital. Cause of death was a fracture of the neck.

Signature _____
Date: 10/1/[-1] Time: 2100 hours





State of XX

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Deceased Name:

Ash Johnson

Sex:

male/female

Date of Death:

October 1 [-1]

Place of Death:

Springdale; University Hospital

Municipality of Death:

YY County

Domestic Status:

Single, never married

Manner of Death:

Accident

Cause of Death:

Fracture of cervical spine

Date issued:

10/1/[-1]

Issued by:

State of XX,

Office of Vital Statistics

Certificate No.:

1871