

Jury orders Allstate to pay \$20 million to insured driver



October 6, 2006 - A jury awarded a car crash victim \$20 million after his insurance company, Allstate Insurance, failed to pay his full policy.

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Ted Fields was insured by Northbrook-based Allstate Insurance for 15 years before his 1995 crash with an uninsured driver. He said Allstate refused to pay the full amount of policy. His lawyer, Kenneth Allen, argued that Allstate made it a corporate policy to force claimants to accept discounted settlements. Company records demonstrated that Allstate made more than \$1.1 billion in 10 years by using delays as legal action in claims.

"They are doing this to thousands of people across the country," said Allen.

Allstate released a statement:

"We will pursue a further appeal. Allstate's claims processes are sound and our goal is to investigate, evaluate and promptly resolve each claim fairly on its merits."

Fields, who said his heart condition is in part caused by the stress of dealing with the insurance company, said he never expected such a settlement.

"I don't expect to get money. It was the principle of the matter," said Fields.



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