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CMT News

First Lawsuits Filed in Indiana State Fair Tragedy

Attorney Seeks \$60 Million in Damages for Plaintiffs

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The first two lawsuits have been filed in connection with the stage collapse at Sugarland's concert at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis. Meanwhile, a third suit appeared to be forthcoming Monday (Aug. 22).

Scaffolding and other equipment fell into the crowd when a strong wind gust hit the fairgrounds just moments before Sugarland and their band were scheduled to walk onstage for their Aug. 13 performance. At least six people died of injuries sustained in the accident and another remained on life support Monday afternoon.

Numerous lawsuits are expected to be filed against those with business connections to the concert at the Hoosier Lottery Grandstand.

The initial lawsuits were filed Friday (Aug. 19) by an attorney representing Janeen Beth Urschel, 49, who survived the accident, and the estate of her partner, Tammy VanDam, 42, who died. The defendants include Mid-America Sound Corp. of Greenfield, Ind. (which owns the stage rigging), Live 360 Group (the show's concert promoter) and Live Nation Entertainment (owner of Ticketmaster).

Attorney Kenneth J. Allen is seeking \$50 million for VanDam's estate and \$10 million plus punitive damages for Urschel.

The *Indianapolis Star* newspaper reported Monday that an attorney representing the wife of Glenn Goodrich, 49, has filed a tort claim notice with the Indiana Attorney General's office as the first step in a possible lawsuit. Glenn Goodrich was working as a security guard at the concert when he was crushed to death by the wreckage from the stage.

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