



Lyft Sued For Wrongful Death Over Miami Crash

By Carolina Bolado

Law360, Miami (November 18, 2015, 8:43 PM ET) --The widow of a car crash victim sued Lyft for wrongful death negligence Monday in Florida state court, alleging the ride-hailing company failed to properly train the driver that caused the fatal accident.

Poliana Perez, whose husband Loinier Perez was killed while riding his motorcycle on Oct. 31, says Lyft Florida Inc. is liable for the crash caused by driver Pirooz Pakdel, who was carrying a pair of Lyft passengers when he allegedly made an improper left-hand turn and rammed into Loinier Perez.

“In this case, Lyft, which isn't even authorized to operate in Miami-Dade County, fell far short of its obligation to act in the best interests of public safety and an innocent life was taken,” Ervin Gonzalez of Colson Hicks Eidson, who is representing Perez's widow, said in a statement. “We need to enforce stronger regulations and training programs if these ride sharing services are going to be allowed in our community.”

The suit seeks unspecified economic and non-economic damages for Perez and her unborn son. She was eight months pregnant with their first child at the time of the crash.

In the suit, Perez alleges that Lyft knew or should have known that Pakdel was not properly trained or suited for the job.

San Francisco-based Lyft allows passengers to use a smartphone app to hail rides from drivers in their personal cars.

Ride-hailing companies like Lyft and Uber Technologies Inc. have come under fire for insufficient safety checks on their drivers, who are considered independent contractors.

Last month, California Gov. Jerry Brown **enacted a law** requiring ride-hailing companies to participate in the Department of Motor Vehicles' so-called pull notice program, which automatically notifies employers if drivers have been involved in accidents or have drunk-driving convictions.

The ride-hailing companies, which were excluded from the program since their drivers are classified as independent contractors, had been conducting manual reviews of driving records on a quarterly basis.

A Lyft representative could not immediately be reached for comment Wednesday.

Perez is represented by Ervin A. Gonzalez and Susan S. Carlson of Colson Hicks Eidso.

Counsel information for Lyft was unavailable.

The case is Perez v. Lyft Florida Inc., case number 2015-026727, in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit for Miami-Dade County, Florida.



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