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Lawsuit filed against Arc of Walker County after deadly crash

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WALKER COUNTY, AL - A lawsuit has been filed against the ARC of Walker County after a mini-bus belonging to the agency slammed head-on into a tree while carrying clients on May 31.

The accident happened on West Ridgewood Road, off of Highway 195.

The Arc is a volunteer-based organization that provides services and support for people with special needs.

On June 28, 2013, the family members of one of the victims filed a lawsuit against The Arc of Walker County, Inc.

Today marks five months since the fatal accident.

According to the court documents filed in Walker County Circuit, Carolyn Biddle, who is the administrator over one of the victim's estates, Phillip McGuff, filed the suit.

The suit states: "On or about May 31, 2013, Crystal L. Pigg, an agent or employee of The Arc, was operating a 2009 Ford E-350 on a public road, to wit: traveling west on Ridgewood Road W. at or near the intersection of AL 257, in Walker County when at approximately 8:10 a.m., Pigg caused the vehicle to leave the roadway and strike a tree. At said time and place, Pigg, while in the furtherance of her business or while on an errand or mission for Defendant The Arc negligently and/or wantonly operated the 2009 Ford E-350 at an excessive rate of speed, lost control of the vehicle, and left the road and struck a tree."

Biddle is seeking damages in excess of \$10,000. [CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL LAWSUIT.](#)

The Arc of Walker County responded to the lawsuit on August 9, 2013. [CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL RESPONSE.](#)

In court records, the Arc denies any wrongdoing and states "The Arc denies that Pigg failed to operate the Ford E-350 in a reasonably safe manner or inconsistent with any applicable Alabama Rules of the Road."

The Arc also states in court documents that "The Arc pleads the presence of unforeseeable acts or events which may have caused any damages alleged by Plaintiff" and that "The Arc pleads that there existed a sudden emergency and that such emergency was the proximate cause of this accident."

A court date has not yet been set.



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