# [***Joan M. Rider, as executrix of the estate of Robert Rider, deceased, and individually v. Township of Freehold, et al; 2005 Mealey's Jury Verdicts & Settlements 142***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=jury-verdicts-settlements&id=urn:contentItem:4H3Y-XWC0-0223-Y0S6-00000-00&context=)

L-6458-95

June 24, 2005

**Result:** $6.93 million plaintiff verdict for survivors' financial loss, including past and future income, assistance, care , training, guidance, companionship and counsel

**Court:** N.J. Super., Monmouth Co.

**Judge:** Martin Kravarik

**Plaintiff Profile**

Joan M. Rider

**Defendant Profile**

Township of Freehold, Monmouth County, State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation, New Jersey Transit Corporation, Jersey Central Power and Light, Joseph M. Mavuro, David Watkins, John Doe I-X, BMW of North America Inc., Bayerische Motoren Werke Aktiengesellschaft, a foreign corporation

**Plaintiff Counsel**

Thomas D. Flinn, Garrity, Graham, Favetta & Flinn, Montclair, N.J

**Defendant Counsel**

Robert Goodman, Brian Kornbreack, Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis, Woodbridge, N.J

**Case Summary**

**Claim:** Auto ***accident***

**Background:** In January 1994, Dr. Robert Rider lost control of his 1986 BMW and crashed into a pole during freezing rain. The impact caused him to move toward the passenger seat. The roof collapsed on that side of the ***car***, and Rider was crushed to death.

His estate sued BMW of North America in 1997 for his death because the ***car*** was not crashworthy. The case went to trial after seven years of litigation. The jury found that BMW was liable for his death by way of design defects in the ***car***.

**Defense:** The ***car*** complied with federal regulations, and the way it was built was the same as most ***cars*** of that era.

**Plaintiff Expert(s)**

Byron Bloch, auto safety, Potomac, Md. Nicholas Perrone, Ph.D, bio-mechanics, Newtown Square, Pa. Steven Schoore, ***accident*** reconstruction, Avington, Pa. Eric Fremede, M.D., neurology, Englewood, N.J. Matityu Marcus, economics, Union, N.J

**Defendant Expert(s)**

Charles Griswald, automobile design, Michigan James McElhaney, bio-mechanics, Durham, N.C

**Key Related Documents**

Verdict available.Document #77-050714-019V.

Complaint available.Document #77-050714-020C.

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LexisNexis Jury Verdicts and Settlement Report

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