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WEEKLY

Ripley County driver settles after crash with teen



Mark Cantor

BY ALAN SCHER ZAGIER

Special to Missouri Lawyers Media

A southeast Missouri woman injured in a 2014 head-on collision with an 18-year-old driver has settled a personal injury claim with the teen’s insurers for \$350,000.

St. Louis plaintiff’s attorney Mark Cantor said his client, Jessica Rhynes, tore the posterior cruciate ligament in her left knee and also suffered damage to her hip, pelvis and left ankle in the July 31, 2014 crash in Ripley County.

Noah Taylor of Corning, Arkansas told the Missouri State Highway

Patrol that he was rounding a curve on a rural road at a speed between 25 mph and 35 mph when he saw that the other driver “had her head down.” Rhynes, who was transported by ambulance to a Poplar Bluff hospital after being extricated from her car, told state troopers that she didn’t know what happened.

Taylor was operating a 2013 Ford F-150 pickup truck owned by his father. Records provided by Cantor show that the claim was settled in early February, with Rhynes receiving \$250,000 in Shelter Insurance policy limits and an additional \$100,000 from Farm Bureau Insurance.

■ \$350,000 Settlement

MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION

- **Venue:** Ripley County Circuit Court (not filed)

- **Date:** February 16, 2016

- **Caption:** Jessica Rhynes v. Noah Taylor

- **First Pretrial Demand:** \$350,000

- **Last Pretrial Demand:** \$350,000

- **First Pretrial Offer:** \$250,000

- **Last Pretrial Offer:** \$350,000

- **Injuries Alleged:** hip, pelvis, knee, ankle

- **Injuries Detail:** torn posterior cruciate knee ligament; injuries to left knee, left hip and left ankle

- **Plaintiff’s Attorney:** Mark A. Cantor, Cantor Injury Law, St. Louis

- **Insurance:** Shelter Insurance, Farm Bureau Insurance (for Taylor)