

# *South Florida* **Sun-Sentinel**

## **Paralyzed former Pahokee trucker wins \$14.6 million judgment**

Quadriplegic trucker sued his insurance provider under uninsured motorist policy.

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FORT LAUDERDALE - A paralyzed Pahokee man won a \$14.6 million judgment Tuesday in Broward Circuit Court against his insurance company stemming from a 2007 accident in Palm Beach County that cost him the use of his arms and legs.

Derry Brown, 64, was driving an 18-wheeler on State Road 80, just east of Lion Country Safari, on May 31, 2007, when he swerved to avoid a car that had blown past a stop sign, said his lawyer, Robert Kelley. Had Brown not stopped, his lawyer argued, the driver of the other vehicle would all but certainly have died.

Instead, Brown was left a quadriplegic, and the other driver never stopped. Brown's insurance provider, National Casualty Co., denied coverage, Kelley said, forcing Brown to sue for uninsured motorist benefits.

Brown is undergoing treatment at the Florida Institute for Neurological Rehabilitation in Hardee County.

A call to National Casualty's headquarters in Arizona was not returned late Tuesday afternoon.