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RV suit settled for \$3.4 million

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A family whose car was struck last year when a 34-foot motor home cut in front of their vehicle on Interstate 8 near Yuma received a \$3.4 million out-of-court settlement this week from a California company whose employee was driving the motor home.

The parents, James A. and Betty L. Holliday, suffered head injuries, are mildly brain damaged and are unemployable, Tucson lawyer Mike Rollins said. Their daughter and son, Kelly and Brian, who are 10-year-old twins, have suffered psychological problems, Rollins said.

On Feb. 26, 1989, the Hollidays, who live in Wellton, a rural community about 20 miles east of Yuma, went shopping in Yuma with their twins, who were 8 years old.

As they drove west on the inside lane of I-8 on their way home, a motor home in the outside lane made a left turn in front of them, trying to get to the median,

Rollins said.

During the accident, the left rear wheels of the motor home crashed through the window of the Hollidays' car and struck James Holliday, who was not wearing a seat belt, in the head, according to documents.

The motor home's driver, A. Lee Snyder, who had been hired by La Mesa RV Center Inc. of California a month earlier, wanted to cross the median and make a U-turn because he was headed in the wrong direction, Rollins said.

He said Snyder admitted that he knew crossing the median was illegal. He was fired after the accident.

Snyder, who told lawyers he was not given a driving test by the company, had gotten lost when he was separated from a caravan of motor homes traveling from an RV show to the dealer's lot in Yuma.