

# AUTO RENTAL NEWS

## Families Sue Driver, Rental Agency in Teens' Death

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MORRISTOWN, N.J. – Families of the two teen girls killed after being struck by an alleged drunken driver have filed civil wrongful death lawsuits against the driver, Eugene Baum Jr., of Dover, N.J., and the agency that rented him the car he was driving the night of the April accident, according to the *Daily Record* (Morris County, N.J.).

The two girls were walking when they were struck by the car, a 2005 Kia Optima sedan driven by Baum, authorities said. According to the *Daily Record*, toxicology reports show Baum's blood-alcohol level was .305, nearly four times the legal limit of .08, Morris County Assistant Prosecutor Ralph Amirata said in May.

The lawsuit, which names Baum and the parent company of Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Wayne, N.J., "seeks damages for wrongful death and pain and suffering while the children were being dragged before they died," the lawyer representing the Jafar relatives, John P. Bostany of The Bostany law firm in Newark, said.

Bostany said the rental company is being named in the lawsuit because under New Jersey law, vehicle owners are liable for the actions of the driver.

They also may have further culpability depending on their screening of Baum before they rented him the vehicle, Bostany said.