

May 22, 2014

Mother files suit in railroad death

By Ashley Wislock

The Daily Item

MILTON – A Milton woman has filed a lawsuit alleging local railroad companies acted negligently by not installing crossing gates at an intersection where her 17-year-old daughter was killed in May 2012.

Maxine Eschbach, 17, was killed when a car she was riding in was hit by a train as the car was traveling west on Center Street in the borough. There are crossing lights, but no gates at the crossing where the accident happened.

Wednesday, Philadelphia law firm Messa & Associates, announced Eschbach's mother, Roxanne, has filed a wrong death lawsuit against several local parties, including Northfolk Southern Railroad, North Shore Railroad Company, the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority, Consolidated Rail Corporation, the driver of the car, Kimberly Bergenstock, and Bergenstock's father, Douglas, as well as the driver of the train, Joshua Weisen, of Sunbury. The suit was filed in the court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County.

The suit states that Maxine's death was "a direct consequence of Norfolk Southern Corporation, Norfolk Southern Railway Company and Consolidated Rail Corporation's failure to install the automatic crossing gates at the Center Street Railroad crossing," according to court documents.

The suit seeks unspecified monetary compensation from the parties, according to court documents.