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California Highway Patrol To Pay Family \$2.4M after Fatal Crash Photos Leaked

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By NewsCore

LADERA RANCH, Calif. - The California Highway Patrol (CHP) has agreed to pay \$2.375 million to a family who were traumatized after patrol dispatchers leaked photographs from the scene of a car crash in which their daughter died more than five years ago.

Lesli and Christos Catsouras, from Ladera Ranch in southern California, sued the CHP after horrific images of the body of their dead 18-year-old daughter Nicole in the wrecked Porsche appeared on the internet within weeks of her fatal crash in Lake Forest, Calif, on Oct. 31, 2006.

While the CHP never released the images publicly, it later admitted that two dispatchers were responsible for leaking the photographs, The Orange County Register reported.

CHP spokesman Fran Clader said in a statement that the agency on Friday had agreed to pay \$2.375 million as compensation to the family.

"No amount of money can compensate for the pain the Catsouras family has suffered," Clader said. "We have reached a resolution with the family to save substantial costs of continued litigation and a jury trial. It is our hope that with this legal issue resolved, the Catsouras family can receive some closure."

The Catsouras family had initially sought \$20 million in damages.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Ronald Bauer had ordered the two parties to attend a mandatory settlement conference Friday, ahead of a potential trial before a jury.

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