

**TELEGRAPH** <https://www.thetelegraph.com/news/article/Suit-Girl-fell-from-train-ride-at-Godfrey-corn-13568750.php>

## Suit: Girl fell from train ride at Godfrey corn maze, run over — mother seeks \$50K from village

Sanford J. Schmidt, [sschmidt@thetelegraph.com](mailto:sschmidt@thetelegraph.com) Updated 9:52 pm CST, Monday, January 28, 2019



This 2015 Telegraph file photo shows the barrel train ride at the annual Great Godfrey Corn Maze in Glazebrook Park. Children pictured were not involved in the incident described in this story.

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**GODFREY** — The mother of a child who fell from the “barrel train” during the annual Great Godfrey Corn Maze festivities in Glazebrook Park on Halloween is suing the village for \$50,000, claiming her daughter fell out of a barrel car and was run over.

Caitlin Smay of Alton, is suing on behalf of her minor daughter, Harper Smay, who was allegedly injured after the fall on Oct. 31. “Harper was bleeding from a deep wound on her left knee and had blood on her head, face and left hand,” the suit alleges.

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“The barrel had a seat belt, which was fastened, and the operator began pulling the train away from the starting point. To Caitlin Smay’s surprise, the barrel train

traveled outside of her view. When the barrel train returned, Harper’s seat was empty.”

When she asked the ride’s operator where her child was, the suit claims he replied, “What do you mean?”

“About that time, a woman appeared from the parking lot, which was busy with heavy traffic, holding Harper,” the suit continues.

Godfrey Mayor Mike McCormick said Monday he was aware of the situation, but was surprised about the suit. He said the matter was turned over to the village's insurance company, but the company said it was unable to reach the child's family.

He said the village has been operating the barrel train in Glazebrook Park for a number of years in connection with the annual corn maze, but there has never been a problem.

The suit states the barrels are pulled by a riding lawn mower. "The barrel train was held out to invitees as suitable and appropriate for all ages, including very young children," the suit alleges.

"Based on accounts from the other riders, during the ride, Harper began to stand up, as if attempting to get off the train. The older children sitting behind her started yelling for the operator, who did not stop the train or turn around to check the riders. Harper fell out of the train onto the gravel parking lot and was run over. The train never stopped for Harper," the suit claims.

The suit claims the village failed to do its duty to use reasonable care and caution in the operation of the train and the village "is guilty of willful and wanton misconduct." The suit is asking for damages for "permanent and disabling injuries to the head, chest, leg, arm and hand" and other parts of her body. The girl allegedly will suffer "great physical pain and suffering and disfigurement."

The plaintiff is represented by Matthew R. Chapman.

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