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## Woman gets \$1.5M for injury from crash

Cook County jury awards damages for chronic back pain

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A Cook County jury awarded \$1.5 million to a woman who has chronic pain in her lower back after a car crash.

Iris Glenn, then 73, was traveling northbound on Governors Highway at its intersection with Vollmer Road in Flossmoor on Aug. 7, 2021.

Another driver, Patricia Shields, was traveling westbound on Vollmer Road when she crashed into Glenn's car, T-boning her.

Glenn was taken to the hospital by ambulance with complaints of chest pain and shortness of breath.

A few days later, she developed low back pain, according to court documents.

When Glenn went to see her primary care physician, she was prescribed medication and physical therapy.



**Ronald W. Kalish**

The therapy was not helping relieve her pain, so she went to see a spine surgeon, who referred her to a pain consultant.

Glenn underwent three lumbar spinal injections and a medial branch block, an injection of a local anesthetic administered near the medial branch nerves to temporarily block the pain signal carried from the facet joints of the spine to the brain. But her pain persisted.

She eventually underwent a spinal cord stimulator implantation in September 2022. This involves placing a device that



**Haadee M. Siddiqui**

sends low levels of electricity directly into the spinal cord to relieve pain.

Glenn's treating physician testified that she has permanent chronic pain syndrome in her lower back that was caused by the car crash, and that the spinal cord stimulator was reasonable and necessary.

Glenn filed negligence claims against Shields in Cook County Circuit Court.

The complaint alleged Shields carelessly and negligently failed to stop at a red light and maintain proper lookout and control of her car,

among other claims.

The case went to trial on damages on April 15 before Cook County Circuit Court Judge James M. Varga.

The jury returned a verdict in favor of Glenn and against Shields on Friday.

The award covers compensatory damages including pain and suffering, loss of a normal life, medical care and disfigurement.

Glenn is represented by Ronald W. Kalish of Steinberg, Goodman & Kalish and Haadee M. Siddiqui of Jeffrey M. Goldberg Law Offices.

"I think our client felt vindicated that the jury acknowledged that this was a serious injury that was worthy of whole and complete compensation," Kalish said. "The verdict provides her ... with some closure to a very difficult situation."

Shields is represented by Renee M. Hogan of Michael D. Gallo & Associates. She could not be reached for comment.

The case is *Glenn v. Shields*, 2022 L 007272.