



U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

DOT Auto Safety Hotline

**Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire**  
 To Report Vehicle Safety Defects  
 1-888-DASH-2-DOT  
 (1-888-327-4236)  
 INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100148

Date Received **NOV 10 AM 9:10** Repository   
 03-NOV-2006 Reference No. 10172523

**OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)**

Name [REDACTED]  
 Address [REDACTED]  
 City FLINT State MI Zip Code [REDACTED]

Daytime Telephone Number [REDACTED] E-mail Address [REDACTED]  
 Evening Telephone Number [REDACTED]

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle?  YES   
 In the absence of an authorized signature, please print your name and address to the vehicle manufacturer.  
 Signature of Owner [REDACTED] Date 11/22/06

**VEHICLE INFORMATION**

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side: 3FCNF53S1Y[REDACTED]  
 Make GULF STREAM Model SUN VOYAGER Model Year 2000  
 Date Purchased 04-MAR-03 Dealer's Name and Telephone Number (813) 246-4333 LAZY DAYS R.V. CENTER, INC.  
 Engine: No: Cylinders 10 Fuel Type: Gas  
 Original Owner  Dealer's City SEFFNER State FL Zip Code 33584  
 Transmission Type AUTOMATIC  Antilock Brakes  Cruise Control Powertrain REAR WHEEL DRIVE  
 Vehicle Component Code 024000 SUSPENSION: AUTOMATIC STABILITY CONTROL (ASC)  
 Multiple Failure: 1 SEE ATTACHED

**FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION**

Incident Date(s) 19-OCT-2006 Failure Mileage 8000 Failure Speed 55 SEE ATTACHED

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE**

Tire Make [REDACTED] Tire Model (Name or Number) [REDACTED] Tire Size (Example P215/65R15) [REDACTED]  
 DOT No. (Example: DOTM19ABC036)  Original Equipment  Prior Repair Failure Location: [REDACTED]  
 Tire Component Code [REDACTED] Tire Failure Type [REDACTED]

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE**

Make: [REDACTED] Date Manufactured: [REDACTED] Model No./Name: [REDACTED]  
 Seat Type: [REDACTED] Installation System: [REDACTED]  
 Child Seat Component Code: [REDACTED] Failed Part: [REDACTED]

**APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION**

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), failure(s), crash(es), and injury(ies).)

Crash  Yes  No Fire  Yes  No Number of Persons Injured [REDACTED] Number of Deaths [REDACTED] Reported to Police N

**Narrative Description of Incident(S), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).**  
 Please describe (1) events leading up to the failure, (2) failure and its consequences, and (3) what was done to correct the failure; i.e., parts repaired or replaced (and if old part is available).

DT\*: THE CONTACT STATED WHILE DRIVING 55 MPH, THE MOTOR HOME BEGAN TO ROCK FROM SIDE TO SIDE. AS THE VEHICLE SLOWED, THE ROCKING SUBSIDED. AS THE VEHICLE SPED UP, THE ROCKING BECAME WORSE. THE VEHICLE WAS TAKEN TO A SERVICE DEALER, WHERE THE DEALER WAS UNABLE TO DETERMINE THE PROBLEM. \*AK  
 SEE ATTACHED

Include, if available: Police/Fire Department Report, Photos, and Repair Invoice. ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

The Privacy Act of 1974-Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a Manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

## UAW LEGAL SERVICES PLANS

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UAW-GM UAW-Ford UAW-DaimlerChrysler  
G-2370 S. Linden Rd., Flint, Michigan 48532  
Phone: (810) 720-0044 Fax: (810) 720-1653

November 24, 2006

Mr. Alberto Jimenez, Chief  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: our client: [REDACTED]  
UAW [REDACTED]  
Used 2000 Gulfstream Sunvoyager, 36'  
Manufacturer: GulfStream Coach, Inc. Nappanee, IN 46550

Dear Mr. Jimenez:

I have been asked by [REDACTED] to represent him in this matter. He purchased the above motor home manufactured by Gulfstream. This RV is utterly uncontrollable and unsafe at any speed. It continually sways back and forth wildly, careening from one side of the road to another, on its own. It does this in a zero wind condition, due to its 30/70 weight distribution caused by its defective design and defective weight distribution. The weight distribution is supposed to be 50/50 over each axle. Instead, Gulfstream designed and built the unit with 6,195 lbs over the front axle, and 13,990 lbs over the rear axle, a grossly unequal distribution. Upon investigation, it was found that Gulfstream built 15 of these units and stopped. It was further found that most of these units were caught and were reconfigured to cure the terrible sway problem before anyone got killed. Somehow, [REDACTED] RV fell through the cracks.

The manufacturer's allegation that [REDACTED] oversteers the RV is not persuasive, given the fact that [REDACTED] has a CDL Class A license to drive 18 wheeler trucks, and has been driving semi trucks for the past 20 years. Thus he is well aware of how to drive a large truck.

The RV careens wildly from one side of the road to another on its own with no wind. It is impossible to get this RV to track in a straight line. Eventually, someone, either my client, or a subsequent driver or buyer, or an oncoming driver, is going to get killed by this RV. It seems to me that Gulfstream is not going to escape a very expensive liability any cheaper than it can right now.

The manufacturer attempted to reconfigure the RV, to equalize the weight distribution, but it did not solve the problem. My client demands that the manufacturer take the RV back and give him a refund, or exchange it for another comparable unit that Gulfstream has.

He has also encountered the following serious and intractable problems with this RV, and suffered the following damages:

1. Trade in of his prior RV for this one	\$26,220.00
2. Three years of monthly payments on undriveable RV	
\$638/mo x 36 months =	\$22,968.00
3. Installed Banks system and transcommand	\$ 3,385.90
4. Installed Bilstein shock	\$ 327.00
5. Installed protective guard mudflap	\$ 160.00
6. Installed airhorn	\$ 560.00
7. Installed 2000W inverter	\$ 1,500.00
8. Installed lube pumt and wiring for towing	\$ 1,300.00
9. Attorney fees paid to attorney Jonathan Holt	\$ 3,000.00
10. Expert witness fees for analysis you requested	+ \$ 1,850.00
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Subtotal of Losses	\$ 61,270.90

He is also suffered and is owed:

11. Three new batteries
12. Two jacks for the bed,
13. Window shades
14. Loss of value to the RV because of the changes that were made to the RV
15. Loss of computer desk
16. Loss of storage bay
17. Awning hook and ladder now both have to be stored inside the RV
18. The slide out still does not work, it has a breaker problem, and blows breakers daily;
19. The replacement bed recently constructed by Gulfstream broke apart. It was supposed to be made out of aluminum, instead it was constructed out of thin paneling, and staples were used.

My client would be willing to settle this matter for a straight up even exchange of his RV for the used 2002 Friendship that was shown to him at Gulfstream's facility. Please investigate this matter and compel Gulfstream to take this unit back and give him a refund, or, exchange the RV.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey K. Bearss  
Attorney at Law