INFORMATION REDACTED PURSUANT TOTHE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C.552(B)(6)

From: [redacted]
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Crash fatality/4YO in Britax Car Seat
Date: Monday, April 27, 2020 11:28:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Thank you, Ryan. Good morning, Officer Patterson. I hope this message finds you and your family safe and healthy.

My name is Anna Early, and I am the General Counsel of Britax Child Safety Inc. I have been communicating with Ryan and Tracy Whitman since last December, shortly after this incident occurred. As noted earlier, we are always interested in learning more about our products in the field, especially when there has been a reported fatality. I was hoping to be able to inspect the seat or see more photographs of it (given the travel restrictions). We obtained the police report and some associated documentation and are trying to get more photos of the seat after the accident.

I understand there is an impending civil suit in connection with the investigation, so we may not be able to view the seat until that is resolved. However, any information you can share in the meantime is very much appreciated.

Best Regards,

Anna M. Early
General Counsel, The Americas
[redacted]

Britax Child Safety, Inc.
4140 Pleasant Road
Fort Mill, SC 29708
USA

A **Britax Childcare** company

[redacted]

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From: Ryan Shaffer -State Police- [redacted]>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 10:53 AM
To: Early, Anna [redacted]
Cc: Patterson, Jesse [redacted]
Subject: Re: Crash fatality/4YO in Britax Car Seat

Good morning,

The last I heard from the State's Attorney's Office was the case was on hold. I have included Officer Patterson in this email. He was the investigator from Hagerstown City Police, as I only assisted his investigation. I do not believe it is an issue to look at the seat depending on the outcome of the case. I would refer to Officer Patterson.

On Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 10:47 AM Early, Anna [redacted] wrote:

> Hi Ryan:
>
> I just wanted to confirm that we were able to obtain the police report.
>
> It would be helpful for us to be able to inspect the seat. Is this something we can set up once travel restrictions are removed, or will we need to wait until the conclusion of the civil suit?
>
> Best Regards,

Anna M. Early
General Counsel, The Americas
[redacted]

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From: Early, Anna
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 6:25 PM
To: Ryan Shaffer -State Police- [redacted]
Subject: RE: Crash fatality/4YO in Britax Car Seat

Ryan:

Many thanks and no problem. Any chance we can get a copy of the police report in the meantime?

Best Regards,

Anna M. Early
General Counsel, The Americas
[redacted]

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From: Ryan Shaffer -State Police- [redacted]
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 6:17 PM
To: Early, Anna [redacted]
Subject: Re: Crash fatality/4YO in Britax Car Seat

Hi, I passed on your information to Hagerstown Police Department. The States Attorney working the case has the seat secured as evidence. They will probably want to hold the seat until after any court litigation. I will inquire and let you know. Thanks.

On Mon, Apr 6, 2020, 5:32 PM Early, Anna [redacted] wrote:

> Hi Ryan:
>
> I hope you are well and safe during these unprecedented times. I am following up with you regarding the police report we discussed. I know you were assisting another agency, but just checking on the status of this request.
>
> Best Regards,
>
> **Anna M. Early**
> **General Counsel, The Americas**
> [redacted]
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From: Early, Anna
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2019 1:07 PM
To: Ryan Shaffer -State Police- <[redacted]
Subject: RE: Crash fatality/4YO in Britax Car Seat

Many thanks.

Best Regards,

Anna M. Early
Head of Legal, The Americas
[redacted]

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From: Ryan Shaffer -State Police- [redacted]
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2019 10:31 AM
To: Early, Anna [redacted]>
Subject: Re: Crash fatality/4YO in Britax Car Seat

I will get with the investigator and get the documents. I was only assisting another police agency. Thanks!

On Thu, Dec 5, 2019 at 12:06 PM Early, Anna <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hi Ryan:
>
> It would be great if you can send us photos and the police report (if possible), so we can review.
>
> Given the impending lawsuit, I am not comfortable retaining possession of the car seat.
>
> Best Regards,
>
> **Anna M. Early**
> **Head of Legal, The Americas**
> [redacted]
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>
> **From:** Ryan Shaffer -State Police- [redacted]
> **Sent:** Thursday, December 5, 2019 7:35 AM
> **To:** Early, Anna <[redacted]>

Cc: Tracy Whitman -MDH- <[redacted]>
Subject: Re: Crash fatality/4YO in Britax Car Seat

Good Morning,

The seat itself was packaged as evidence to the case. The local State's Attorney for the case just decided to retain the seat as evidence for now due to the impending civil suit. We can provide photos or anything related to the crash that you may need. The investigating agency is the Hagerstown Police Department. The seat should be able to be released once the matter is resolved. Let me know if there is anything we can send you for now. Thanks again.

On Wed, Dec 4, 2019 at 5:09 PM Early, Anna <[redacted]> wrote:

> Hi Tracy:
>
> Thank you for reaching out – and Ryan, it is nice to meet you. We are always interested in learning more about our products, particularly when there has been an accident. It is unfortunate news to hear that there was a fatality.
>
> Where is the car seat currently located?
>
> Best Regards,
>
> **Anna M. Early**
> **Head of Legal, The Americas**
> [redacted]
>
> **Britax Child Safety, Inc.**
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>
> **From:** Tracy Whitman -MDH- <[redacted]>
> **Sent:** Wednesday, December 4, 2019 10:01 AM
> **To:** Early, Anna [redacted]; Ryan Shaffer -State Police- <[redacted]>
> **Subject:** Crash fatality/4YO in Britax Car Seat
>
> Hi, Anna.
>
> My name is Tracy Whitman and I'm the State Coordinator for MD Kids In Safety Seats, Maryland's CPS Program. Sarah Tilton provided me your contact information in response to a note I sent her, asking if Britax may be interested in looking over a Frontier that was in a crash and the 4 YO in it was fatality injured in Maryland.
>
> I've cc'd one of the crash reconstructionists on this note. He is a CPS Technician with Maryland State Police. He inquired with a colleague of ours, who forwarded him to us, as he was concerned about the amount and type of damage found on the seat and the types of injuries the child sustained. I was surprised to hear there was a fatality. We had a higher impact crash two months ago (similar vehicle weight/size and same solid barrier/front impact condition) with twins the same general size and age Dorel car seats and the buckles ripped out of both seats at impact but both children had only very minor injuries.
>
> I know some manufacturers are sometimes interested in getting the seats back to look them over after crashes. I thought Britax may want to discuss the crash with the reconstructionist and perhaps look at the car seat. His email is cc'd on this note, and his cell is [redacted].

Thank you for your attention.

Tracy Whitman
Program Coordinator
Maryland Kids In Safety Seats
Maryland Department of Health
201 W Preston St, 4th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201
[redacted]

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Sergeant Ryan Shaffer #4931
Maryland State Police
Hagerstown Barrack "O"
[redacted]

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Sergeant Ryan Shaffer #4931
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Hagerstown Barrack "O"
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