

# DAILY NEWS

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DAILY

## Kin to sue city after teen maimed



Natalie Ferber (below) is in coma from Nov. 18 wreck caused by a high-speed police chase in Brooklyn.

# \$70M for bad chase

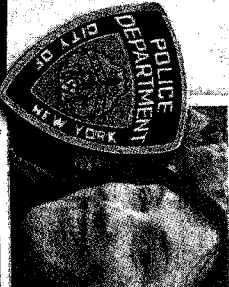


**BY BARBARA ROSS, THOMAS TRACY and DAREH GREGORIAN**  
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

**THE NYPD PARENTS** of a 19-year-old student who was critically injured when a robbery suspect slammed into their car during a high-speed chase are planning a \$70 million lawsuit against the city, according to court papers.

Natalie Ferber is still in a coma after the November crash, which came when a van that was being chased by cops smashed into a car driven by Ferber's off-duty NYPD sergeant-in-charge.

The NYPD forbids officers from making high-speed chases through city streets, and police sources said they're investigating whether one of the cars that was chasing Randy Edwards on Nov. 18 had been ordered to stop by a supervisor.



Ferber suffered serious brain damage when Edwards' van smashed into her car, and she could be crippled for the rest of her life if she survives, said the family's lawyer, David Jaroslawicz.

"The family still has hope. Sometimes miracles happen," he said.

The college student was a passenger in the front seat of her mother's Nissan Versa when Edwards, 34, of Brooklyn, smashed into the car as her mother was making a turn at Avenue U and Burnett St. in Marine Park, Brooklyn, court papers say.

The van hit the Nissan initially on the driver's side, spun it around

and hit it again on the passenger side, the filings say.

Ferber was critically injured and initially not expected to survive, Jaroslawicz said her mother, Nancy Lawrence, 50, was hospitalized with multiple broken bones and a young friend of the teen in the back seat also was injured.

Jaroslawicz said Ferber, like everyone else in the car, was wearing a seat belt.

"They did nothing wrong. They were in the wrong place at the wrong time," Jaroslawicz said.

At the time, police said two robbery squad detectives had been chasing Edwards for 6 miles after they stopped him in Park Slope and he took off in the van, running over one cop's foot in the process.

Ferber's father, who was not in the car, is Lt. Dennis Ferber, 46, a 25-year NYPD vet. In court papers that are a prelude to an actual lawsuit, Jaroslawicz is asking the court to order the NYPD to disclose the names of the two officers involved in the chase.

He also wants the department ordered to preserve police tapes and the two vehicles as well as to turn over the report made by the accident reconstruction team that did a detailed analysis of the crash.

Jaroslawicz said he is concerned the team's conclusions will not be neutral because "in this case, they have a self-interest to absolve (fellow officers) of responsibility."

Edwards has been charged with assault of a police officer with a deadly weapon, leaving the scene of an accident, reckless driving and a slew of other traffic charges.