

# CHICAGO SUN-TIMES



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# Fatal post-party crash spurs lawsuit

## Homeowners accused of supplying liquor for 'gigantic' teen bash

BY STEVE PATTERSON  
Staff Reporter

Daniel Garczek's leg was amputated, his pelvis shattered, and this weekend, the 17-year-old finally awoke from a two-week coma.

It was all the result of a horrific

car crash after he and his friends spent a Friday night drinking at a "gigantic party."

But the liquor at that party, Garczek claims in a lawsuit filed by his mother Monday, was provided by adults.

And, the lawsuit says, those adults allowed the May 20 party to happen even though they knew underage kids would be drinking.

The lawsuit filed in Cook County Circuit Court seeks unspecified damages from Stan and Zofia Kulawiak and Stan and Janina Ziomek

— co-owners of the house and nine acres around it in Lockport, according to Cook County property records.

The Kulawiaks did not return calls, while the Ziomeks couldn't be reached.

In the lawsuit, attorney G. Grant Dixon cited a 2004 state law that makes adults liable when they provide alcohol — or even a place to drink alcohol — to those under 21.

"Without these adults supplying alcohol or supplying a place to drink, this horrible accident would never

have happened," Dixon said.

"This was a very well-organized, gigantic party and it's our contention that they supplied the liquor for the party to go on."

### 17-year-old friend killed

Garczek was with several friends at the party when they decided to leave with another friend, Andrzej Kalata, 17, of Hickory Hills.

Kalata was northbound on Archer Avenue when he crossed the center line and struck several trees, sheriff's officers said.

The crash threw Andrzej Gil, 17, from the car, killing him.

Garczek emerged from a coma last weekend, but remains in the intensive care unit at Loyola University Medical Center.

A fourth passenger, Daniel Koscielniak, 17, was wearing a seat belt and was not seriously hurt.

Kalata is charged with reckless homicide. A state's attorney spokesman said Kalata registered a .02 blood-alcohol level, well below the .08 threshold for drunken driving.

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