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Fatal Roof Collapse at Missouri Family Dollar Sparks Lawsuit Over Negligence

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A roof collapse at a Family Dollar store in Kansas City, Missouri, on July 27 has left one man dead and others injured, prompting a lawsuit and an ongoing investigation into the

store's structural integrity and management oversight.

Tammy Martin, a customer who was seriously injured during the collapse, has filed a lawsuit against Family Dollar, claiming the company's negligence led to the fatal incident. Martin alleges she suffered "severe and permanent injuries" to multiple parts of her body, including her head, neck, spine, and limbs, after being struck by falling debris. She is seeking more than \$25,000 in damages and has requested a jury trial.

The tragic incident also claimed the life of a 68-year-old man, whose name has not yet been released. Emergency responders arrived swiftly, sealing off the area as bricks, wooden beams, and other debris covered the sidewalk and parking area. Two other individuals were treated on-site and declined further medical care.

According to Martin's lawsuit, a 2016 vehicle collision had knocked out one of the main support pillars in front of the building. The suit alleges the damage was never properly repaired, leaving the store structurally compromised for years. The legal complaint further claims that multiple warnings were made to store operators regarding the roof's deteriorating condition, including that it "looked as if it was going to fall."

The filing states, "Defendants knew or should have known the store, including the roof, was not reasonably safe." Martin's injuries, the lawsuit continues, have resulted in "substantial healthcare expense, loss of enjoyment of life, permanent disability, pain and suffering, future medical treatment, and a loss of earning capacity."

In a potential warning sign, a property violation report had reportedly been filed just two days before the incident. The report, issued by Kansas City code enforcement officials, noted the structure appeared to be "tilting." This detail could add weight to claims that the building's hazards were apparent and ignored.

The Kansas City Police Department and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) are actively investigating the collapse. As authorities assess the structural causes and evaluate compliance with safety standards, the case has raised wider concerns about accountability in commercial property maintenance.

Family Dollar has not issued a public statement regarding the collapse or the pending legal action. The outcome of the investigation may influence broader regulatory discussions about ensuring safe retail environments, especially in underserved communities.