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JANUARY 29, 2020

Violence erupts at Miami-Dade County Courthouse after verdict in fatal Sunny Isles crash



[Alex Browning](#)

MIAMI (WSVN) - A fight broke out at the Miami-Dade County Courthouse between the widow of a [man who died after getting struck in a fatal crash](#) in Sunny Isles and the driver's family, Wednesday.

Zulma Guillot Pelleg exchanged words and slapped the family member of Joseph Jacob Franco outside the courtroom after he took a plea deal in the death of her husband, Amir Pelleg.

Back in July 2018, Franco was driving his minivan in Sunny Isles Beach when he lost control and hit Amir and his family, including two daughters, who were walking on the sidewalk.

The family was rushed to the hospital where Amir later succumbed to his injuries.

According to Franco's attorney, the tox reports showed there were no drugs in his system at the time of the crash.

Franco claimed he swerved to avoid a bicyclist.

"While Joseph hopes the Pelleg family receives some measure of closure by the completion of the criminal case, he understands that nothing he can say or do will ever make up for the pain caused by the loss of their loved one," attorney Robert Reiff said.

Pelleg voiced her thoughts on Franco's apology.

"When you're guided by the politically correct to say the right thing, that doesn't mean you mean it," Pelleg said.

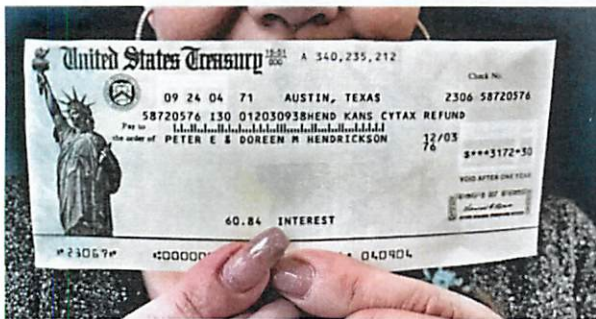
Pelleg also added she now plans to focus on her children.

"I just can put all my energy towards ensuring that my kids are emotionally and physically well moving forward," she said.

As part of the plea deal, Franco will spend three years behind bars and another five years under probation.

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