

Family of 6-year-old girl fatally struck by badminton racket in Maine in 2024 files wrongful death lawsuit

By **Nick Stoico** Globe Staff, Updated August 20, 2026, 36 minutes ago



Lucy Morgan died in June of 2024 after she was struck by a badminton racket. FAMILY PHOTO

The family of a 6-year-old New Jersey girl who died after she was struck by part of a badminton racket while vacationing in Maine two years ago has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the manufacturer, Franklin Sports Inc., according to court records and the law firm representing the family.

Lucy Morgan died June 5, 2024, four days after the metal shaft of a badminton racket separated from its handle during a game outside the family's rental home and struck her in the head.

The lawsuit alleges the Franklin Sports racket was "defective" and "unreasonably dangerous," according to a copy of the complaint. The suit alleges the company failed to warn consumers that the metal shaft could separate from the handle during normal use.

A message was sent to Franklin Sports Inc. seeking comment Thursday.

According to the complaint, Lucy was watching her older siblings play badminton outside the rental home in Limerick, Maine, on June 1, 2024. When one of the children swung their racket at the birdie, the racket's aluminum shaft separated from its wooden handle. The shaft struck Lucy in the head and pierced her skull, according to the lawsuit.

Emergency crews responded to the home about noon and took Lucy to Southern Maine Health Care in Sanford. She was later flown to Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine, where doctors attempted to save her. She died from her injuries four days later.

Maine State Police described Lucy's injury as unintentional.

The lawsuit, filed earlier this week in York, Maine, Superior Court, alleges the racket's design contributed to Lucy's death.

Lawyers for the family said in court papers that the adhesive used to connect the handle to the metal stem was defective, and the racket "lacked a secondary restraint to secure the metal stem to the handle when, inevitably, there was a failure in the adhesive."

“The defective and unreasonably dangerous condition of the badminton racket was the direct and proximate cause of Lucy’s death and pain and suffering,” the lawsuit says.

The badminton set had been provided with the family’s rental cottage, according to the suit.

Attorneys for the family also accuse Franklin Sports of failing to warn consumers about the potential for the shaft to separate during ordinary use.

“This case represents a parent’s worst nightmare,” attorney Travis M. Brennan said in a statement.

“The Morgan family was enjoying an idyllic summer vacation here in Maine when they lost Lucy due to what we allege was a dangerous and defective piece of sports equipment. We are committed to obtaining justice for Lucy by holding Franklin Sports accountable. We want to ensure these rackets are manufactured in a way where this type of tragedy never occurs again.”

The complaint further alleges the company was aware of a previous case in New York where a child was severely injured in a similar incident.

“The shaft from a Franklin badminton racket already took out the eye of another child in New York well before this tragedy,” attorney Charles P. Hehmeyer, who is also representing the family, said in the statement. “The company knew that but chose not to correct this with something as simple as a pin in the handle, which would cost pennies.”

The lawsuit says Lucy’s three siblings witnessed the accident, and her parents came running to her aid when they heard her screams.

The family is seeking damages permitted under Maine law, “including funeral expenses, pecuniary loss, emotional distress, loss of comfort, society and companionship, and other available damages,” their attorneys said in a statement.

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