

A federal lawsuit was filed Thursday, Sept. 23 by Troy Palser seeking compensation for the death of his wife, Debra Palser and the hardships his family has experienced since she was killed in July 2009.

The lawsuit filed by attorney Maren Chaloupka says Ben Pelster, 33, who was driving a sprayer for his father's farm when failing to heed a stop sign, is being blamed by Palser for text messaging and being distracted at the time his 28-year-old wife Debra Palser was killed.

The couple's infant son was four months old at the time of the accident which occurred on westbound Highway 23 near mile marker 38 about two-and-a-half miles east of Elsie.

The lawsuit says cell-phone records show Ben Pelster was reading a text message at the time.

*Information from the Associated Press was used in this story.*