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Family of man killed in tailgating fight sues 6

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COLUMBIA, S.C. — The family of a man killed in a fight outside of Williams-Brice Stadium after a South Carolina football game is suing the people who invited the man convicted in the killing to a tailgating party and the owners of the place where the party took place.

The lawsuit filed by Martin Gasque's family names six defendants. Gasque was run over by a truck after fighting a fan in October 2010 after South Carolina beat Alabama. The man he fought with, Curtis Simms was convicted of breach of the peace and remains in prison.

The lawyer who filed the suit, Doug Jennings, wants a jury to hold the people who threw the party responsible for what happened just like a bar that serves too many drinks to someone involved in a drunken driving crash.

"We think this lawsuit is primarily focused on the responsibility owed to the public surrounding the partying and drinking atmosphere, particularly at USC football games, when there is a virtual nonstop party for hours and hours in various parking spaces leading up to a big game," Jennings told The State newspaper (<http://bit.ly/1bGwoQZ>).

The defendants include Simms as well as the man who drove the pickup, the man that invited Simms to the tailgate party and the people who own and manage the parking lot where the party took place.

The lawyers for the defendants deny any responsibility for Gasque's death and said he is responsible for his own drinking and whatever happened because he was drunk.

Gasque was a South Carolina fan and Simms was an Alabama fan. The two briefly fought, and authorities said a punch from Simms knocked him down, where he was run over by a pickup truck.

Simms was sentenced to three years in prison and should be released later this year.

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Information from: The State, <http://www.thestate.com>