

Nev. pays for deaths, dentures, fender benders and more

By Kyle Roerink, Las Vegas Sun

What do a lost pair of dentures, damaged windshields and disgruntled inmates have in common?

Lawsuits against the state.

Since 2013, the state paid \$5.07 million to claimants alleging they were victims of wrongdoing brought on by the government.

The 379 tort claims are a mishmash of bizarre, grisly and mundane cases with a wide range of payouts: Four wrongful death claims that vary from \$375,000 to \$2,500. A civil rights violation that cost \$920,000. A \$976 fender bender caused by a state employee swerving to avoid a cat. An \$80,000 payout for a state employee rear-ending a private citizen. A \$750 liability for losing a mental health patient's dentures.

Those are just a snapshot of the cases and liabilities. But the sum of payouts and number of cases are relatively small compared with other states.

Washington paid \$48 million in claims in 2014. California paid out more than \$123 million annually, according to a 2007 state report.

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