

## 9/11 Kin Get \$500

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Ninety-two families who opted out of the government compensation fund for 9/11 victims have received about \$500 million in settlements, court papers revealed yesterday.

Amounts of the individual deals with the airlines and security firms sued over the terrorist attacks remain confidential.

But court-appointed mediator Sheila Birnbaum said a "straight, per-case average . . . would be misleading."

Birnbaum said bigger payouts went to the families of victims "with extremely high earnings" or whose survivors had "serious health conditions that were going to have required additional support."

Most of the settlements came after mediation sessions that Birnbaum described as "a heart-wrenching and emotionally draining experience for all involved."

The agreements leave just three families with wrongful-death cases still pending in Manhattan federal court.

One of the remaining plaintiffs, Mike Low of Batesville, Ark., said he won't settle unless the defendants agree to create a public archive of all the information they have on the attacks.

"I want to shed some light on some of the ineptitude and failures that led up to 9/11 and what happened that day. We won't have that unless we have an archive or a trial," Low said.

His eldest daughter, Sara, was a flight attendant aboard American Airlines Flight 11 that crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center.