

Katherine Green, Pontiac, Ill.

In 2002, I bought a 1999 Ford Crown Victoria. The dealer told me it was in “excellent condition.” It drove just fine, but then two years later my husband was in a minor accident and took it to a body shop. The body shop told us that it was two cars welded together. They showed me where the welding was. The front half was the original car, and the back half had been totaled and replaced with an old squad car.

To look at it, you would never have known. And nothing on the title gave any inkling that it had been in an accident. An expert checked it out and said, “This is a death trap. You should never have been on the road.” It could have split in two, he said. The body shop told me I should not drive it any further than I had to.

I went straight to the dealer. He said, “What do you want me to do? It’s your problem.” I said, “It’s going to be *your* problem.” I found an attorney. It was two years of fighting. I was two years without a vehicle because of it.

I figure that between the purchase price, the cost of the extended warranty and the financing, I paid close to \$20,000 for that car.

We filed a lawsuit that settled last year. But I went through a very hard time for two years. And the car sat in my driveway for two years.

I am still furious at the danger that my family was subjected to and we didn’t even know. Something needs to be done. It’s just not right.

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