

Morgan Jones's lawyer says agreement still to be reached

THE lawyer for schoolboy Morgan Jones is playing down **Tranz Rail**'s claims that agreement has been reached over compensation for Morgan's accident when he fell from a train in 1994.

Tranz Rail spokeswoman Helen Morgan-Banda said yesterday that lawyers for the parties had reached an agreement. But Morgan's lawyer, **Grant Cameron**, said there were several issues to be resolved and there was still plenty of potential for "things to fall over".

Morgan's father, Les Jones of Christchurch, said, though nothing had been signed, the foundations for a deal had been laid and "there was light at the end of the tunnel".

He said **Tranz Rail** had told him not to say anything about the deal.

Morgan was blinded and had a leg amputated after falling from the Coastal Pacific train travelling between Christchurch and Picton in July 1994.

He fell when a handrail he was holding on to gave way.

The Jones family have been negotiating with **Tranz Rail** since February when a charge of criminal nuisance against the rail company was thrown out in the High Court at Wellington.

Mr Jones said in February that the family wanted a "practical" figure for Morgan, not the sort of figure that has been awarded in the United States.

The Joneses were looking to advances in medical technology to cure Morgan's blindness.

A bionic eye was one possibility.

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