

Concert managers at fault for Astroworld disaster

Recently, tragedy struck Houston, Texas as the mosh pit at the 2021 Astroworld Festival turned into something no one ever thought it would be. Attendants of the annual music festival run by Travis Scott on the night of November 5th were caught in an intense, violent crowd crush, resulting in the deaths of at least 10 people and the cancellation of the second night of the festival.

A common point of contention since that fateful night was who exactly is at fault for the tragedy. Some blame Travis Scott himself, while some blame the concert managers for letting the crowd get out of control. However, it is absolutely the Astroworld Festival's concert manager's fault for letting the crowd get entirely out of hand. The designated manager, who has since been identified as Live Nation, a company quoted to be the "world's leading live entertainment company", should be held criminally responsible for the events.

This would not be the first time that the company has been held responsible in the court of law for accidents that happened at concerts in the past. In 2019, the company was fined over \$5,000 for an accident in which an employee walking near a staging area was struck in the head by a six-foot metal post. Additionally, the company was penalized over \$4,000 in a settlement for a 2011 accident in which an employee working as a rigger had a finger crushed while removing a cable. Jason Kafoury, an Oregon lawyer, states that "The chaotic nature of such large events creates great risk."

This obviously does not mean that Travis Scott should be left off the hook for his failure to listen to the screaming crowd while they were being crushed. He had the absolute obligation to pay attention to the crowd when they were telling him that there was no room to move, no room to breathe; he should have verbally told the audience to stop stampeding towards the front of the venue and to instead take some steps back to give room for people to breathe.

However, as far as the concert goes, what is done is done. As awful as it is, no one can get the ten lives that were lost back to us. It is up to the court of law to find accountability for the events that happened that night. It is important to consider throughout this investigation the job of the people that managed the concert. It was the managers who were supposed to ensure that the concert ran smoothly, and they failed miserably at their job. Performers should use this awful event as a reason to take their audience's safety first. We must remember that the audience is what makes a concert successful, and without them, performance would be impossible.