



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEEN FOUND GUILTY OF KILLING FRIEND IN HILLTOPPING

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Matthew R. Hogue, 21, of Springfield, MO was convicted yesterday by a Greene County Jury of involuntary manslaughter for hilltopping out in the country on Farm Road 132. The motor vehicle crash occurred on the early morning hours of May 6, 2013 where the vehicle came over a hill and skidded off the roadway launching the Kia airborne over a guardrail and landed down in a valley. The Kia came to rest underneath a tree. There were two passengers in the car, Kendi Highland (29) and Joseph Sims (21). Kendi Highland was pronounced dead at the scene. Joseph Highland was paralyzed from the crash.

Hogue was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter in the first degree and assault in the second degree.

At trial, the State presented the testimony of Officer Bryan Gruben who examined the scene of the crash and reconstructed the accident and determined the speed of the Kia at the time it began to skid was 73 miles per hour. The speed limit in this location is 30 miles per hour. The roadway in this area has multiple hills spaced one after another. Officer Adams responded to the hospital after the crash and spoke with the defendant who admitted to the officer that he was hilltopping. The defendant further stated, “I have done it 100 times.”

The jury trial was presided over by The Honorable Calvin Holden. The defendant is subject to a sentence of up to 7 years in the Department of Corrections. Judge Holden set a sentencing hearing for October 23rd, 2014 at 1:30 PM following a sentencing assessment report by the Department of Probation and Parole.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v.
Hogue, A1331-CR02811-01

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This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Philip Fuhrman and Dawn Diel. It was investigated by Sergeant Bryan Gruben and Trooper Michael Adams, both of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.