



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fair Grove Woman Will Serve Seven Year Prison
Sentence for Intoxicated Driving Death

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Amy Suzanne Darst, 39, of Fair Grove, Missouri, entered a guilty plea to an involuntary manslaughter charge arising from an August 1, 2011 motor vehicle crash that resulted in the death of Michael Crane, also of Fair Grove, Missouri.

Darst entered a guilty plea before the Honorable Calvin Holden to the class C felony of involuntary manslaughter in the first degree. Darst was driving while under the influence of alcohol on Highway CC west of Farm Road 167, near Fair Grove, when she lost control of the vehicle. The car left the roadway and flipped into a grove of trees. Blood test results indicated that Darst's blood alcohol content was .244%. Crane was a passenger in the vehicle, and sustained fatal injuries as a result of being partially ejected when it flipped. Darst and another passenger were also injured in the crash.

Under the plea agreement, the defendant received a sentence of seven years in the Missouri Department of Corrections, the maximum on a class C felony. At the time of the crash, Darst was on probation for the C felony of possession of a controlled substance. The Court found that she violated the terms of that probation, and sentenced Darst to five years in prison on that case. Probation was denied by the Court, pursuant to the plea agreement with prosecutors.

This case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Emily Carlstrom. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop D.

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