



NEWS RELEASE  
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
DAN PATTERSON

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Contact: Rhonda Ogden, Office Manager – (417) 868-4061  
1010 Boonville  
Springfield, MO 65802

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Drugged Driver gets 12 years for Killing Two People

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Sean L. Masten, 25, of Springfield, MO was sentenced today for two counts of involuntary manslaughter and one count of leaving the scene of an accident. The collision occurred at the intersection of Scenic and Elm on February 19, 2012. Mr. Masten drove his vehicle at a high rate of speed and ran a stop sign, striking a vehicle driven by Kathy Newman. Kathy Newman, age 60 was pronounced dead upon police arrival. It was early on a Sunday morning when Kathy Newman was on her way to pick up her mother to take her to the grocery store when she was struck by Masten's vehicle. Joshua Sportsman, age 24, the passenger in Masten's vehicle was also killed in the collision. Mr. Masten got into another friend's vehicle and left the scene prior to police arrival. Masten submitted to a blood sample and the results revealed methamphetamine in his system.

Mr. Masten pled guilty to two counts of involuntary manslaughter in the first degree and one count of leaving the scene of an accident. He was sentenced to 12 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections for the involuntary manslaughter for killing Kathy Newman and 7 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections for the involuntary manslaughter for killing Joshua Sportsman. Masten was also sentenced to 4 years in the Department of Corrections for leaving the scene of the accident before police arrived. All counts are to run concurrent with each other. Masten will serve at least 85% of his sentence before he is eligible for parole. This case was presided over by the Honorable Calvin Holden.

**This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Philip Fuhrman. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Dept. and Officer Dustin Donaldson was the lead investigator assigned to the case.**

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## PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

Date 1-9-13

I Dustin Donaldson, a law enforcement officer, knowing that false statements made in this form are punishable by law, state as follows:

I have probable cause to believe that SEAN L. MASTEN, white male, DOB 09/03/1988, SSN 492-98-2564 committed one or more criminal offenses:

The following crimes happened on 02/19/2012 around 07:52 AM at Scenic and Elm in Greene County, Missouri:

I responded to the above listed location for a double fatality crash in which a driver left the scene. When I arrived, I noticed a white Jeep Cherokee with significant damage to the entire vehicle in the front yard of 501 S. Scenic. I also noticed a white Chevrolet pickup in the north yard of the same address facing northeast. The Chevrolet pickup had heavy front end damage from the crash and also appeared to have fire damage. There was a body of a female lying across the passenger seat of the Jeep Cherokee. Sgt. Royal notified me that the female, identified as Kathy Newman was deceased. Sgt. Royal also notified me that the male occupant of the Chevrolet pickup, identified as Joshua Sportsman was also deceased.

Officer Hall spoke with Daniel Chitwood who was southbound on Scenic, behind the Jeep Cherokee. Chitwood said as the Jeep reached Elm St., a westbound white pickup ran the stop sign going "stupid fast" and hit the Jeep. Chitwood said the truck caught fire on impact and both vehicles went off the road, west of the intersection. After the vehicles came to rest, Chitwood saw a large white male get out of the driver's side of the truck. Chitwood said the male was having difficulty walking and walked around the truck and then got into another pickup truck. Chitwood described the large male as heavy set and 5'09". Sean Masten is listed in DOR as 6'3" and 281 pounds. Joshua Sportsman was listed in the Medical Examiner's report as 5'5" and 118.

A short time later a male that identified himself as Sean Masten checked himself into Cox North Hospital for injuries that he claimed to have sustained in a motorcycle accident on his property in Fair Grove, MO. Masten was treated at the hospital for a broken right humerus and a laceration to his right arm that required stitches. Masten later admitted that he had been involved in a crash at Scenic/Elm. Masten told officers that Sportsman had been driving at the time of the crash.

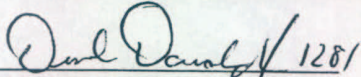
In addition to Masten's arm injury he also sustained a small laceration to the top of his head. Masten's injury to the top of his head is consistent with the less significant contact damage to the driver's side of the windshield. The damage was high on the driver's side and the driver's side was also equipped with an airbag that would have cushioned Masten's forward motion during the crash. Sportsman sustained a more significant laceration to the right side of his forehead as well as a laceration to his right knee. The

contact damage to the passenger side of the windshield was much more significant and lower on the windshield than the driver's side. There was also a large crack in the glove box door where the passenger's knees would have impacted.

During an interview with Masten he admitted to wearing a pair of gray/red Nike shoes. One of the shoes was recovered from the Chevrolet pickup while it was in police custody. The tread pattern on the shoe matched an imprint that had been located on the brake pedal pad of the pickup. While at the scene I observed pre-impact braking skids that made it evident the driver hit the brake pedal.

Masten's blood was drawn at Cox North Hospital. It tested positive for methamphetamines.

The above statements are true to the best of my information and belief.

  
DUSTIN DONALDSON  
SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT  
DSN 1281