



NEWS RELEASE
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
DAN PATTERSON

Contact: Rhonda Ogden, Office Manager – (417) 868-4061
1444 N. Robberson Ave, Suite 600
Springfield, MO 65802

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Springfield man gets Maximum Sentence for fatal DWI

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that, Gary Charles Calhoun, 66, of Springfield, MO was sentenced today for after pleading guilty to being high on meth when he caused a 2021 crash that took two lives. While that case was being investigated and before he was charged, Calhoun got a second DWI.

In January, Calhoun, entered Alford pleas of guilty to one count of driving while intoxicated and causing the death of two or more people and one count of misdemeanor driving while intoxicated. An Alford plea under Missouri law means a defendant does not admit guilt to a crime, but admits prosecuting attorneys have enough evidence against them that a court could reasonably convict them of a crime.

Judge Joshua Christensen, who was filling in for Judge Kaiti Greenwade at the sentencing hearing on April 1, gave Calhoun the maximum sentence, 15 years, for the class B felony of driving while intoxicated and causing the death of two or more people and 180 days in jail for the misdemeanor DWI charge. Those sentences are to run concurrently. Calhoun has been in the Greene County Jail since January of 2023 — a year and a half after the fatal Aug. 27, 2021 crash.

Greene County First Assistant Prosecutor Zachary McFarland showed photos from the crash scene at the sentencing hearing as well as a diagram of the crash to show the impact was “so severe and so intense” that it sent Kendall’s vehicle airborne and into the cab of the semi driven by Gonzalez. “This is what is left of Ms. Kendall’s car,” McFarland said, displaying a photo of the wreckage. “You can see it is literally torn open.” McFarland argued a prison sentence for Calhoun would send a message to others who might think about driving while intoxicated: “If you kill someone, if you kill

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two people, you are going to prison,” McFarland said. “That is what this community expects.”

This case was being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Zachary McFarland. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Shawn Clemens was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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