

Family members of Alabama crash victims ask for leniency in case

On behalf of Johnston, Moore & Thompson May 23, 2011

It's a rare story. Of course, we hear about tragic car accidents often - too often for comfort. Following the loss of crash victims, it is natural that those close to the victims would be passionate about the culpable driver facing harsh sentencing.

An Alabama homicide case involving a 2007 [auto accident](#), however, is different. According to reports, the family of two fatal crash victims is a large reason behind why a vehicular manslaughter defendant won't be serving a lot of jail time.

The deadly accident was the result of the 63-year-old defendant veering into the victims' lane. The victims, an elderly husband and wife, tried to avoid the collision but couldn't, and they both suffered fatal injuries.

You'd think that the couple's surviving kids would be extremely angry and, therefore, push for the most severe charge and sentencing possible right? In this Alabama case, you would be wrong. The adult kids supported the fact that the defendant pleaded guilty only to misdemeanor charges of criminally negligent homicide in this case, versus facing a possible felony conviction for manslaughter.

The district attorney in this case says that the family's support for the defendant was motivated by the idea that their parents wouldn't have wanted him to be severely punished.

The judge has sentenced the defendant to a suspended one-year jail sentence and two years of probation. His driver's license has been cancelled permanently, though he reportedly violated the terms of his bail by driving and causing another crash last year.

Being that the judge handed down the sentence only last week, it looks like the subsequent accident didn't do much to harshly affect the defendant's sentence. This leaves some critics shocked.

What do you think about this case? Could you have been so forgiving as to support a lesser charge for the man whose negligence killed your loved ones?

Source

Al.com: "[Brewton man gets suspended sentence for wreck that killed elderly couple](#)," Kim Lanier, 20 May 2011

