

News Release

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Man Convicted Felony DUI sentenced to Six Years in Prison

Charleston, S.C. – Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that a Charleston County jury convicted Todd Coffield of Felony Driving Under the Influence after he ran his motorcycle into a brick wall in North Charleston, nearly killing the female passenger. The defendant, an acquaintance of the victim, offered to drive her to Waffle House on his motorcycle in the early morning hours of August 17, 2010. The last thing the victim remembered about the drive home was ducking down and clutching onto the defendant as he sped down Elms Plantation Boulevard. A right turn in the road proved too sharp for the defendant and he flew off the road, traveling 250 yards through a wooden sign and two sets of bushes before crashing into a brick wall. Due to the impact, the victim was in a coma for over a month. She suffered a lacerated spleen and liver and fractured nearly every bone in her body, including the bones in her neck. Doctors testified that she will have lasting paralysis in her arm and require lifelong medical treatment, but she is extremely lucky to be alive. The defendant, who was also injured in the crash, had no prior record.

The jury returned the verdict Tuesday night. Upon his conviction, Circuit Court Judge Markley Dennis sentenced Coffield to six years in prison. Assistant Solicitors Spencer Compton and Chad Simpson prosecuted the case. “This is a sad case for everyone involved, and we hope that it serves as a warning to anyone thinking about drinking and driving” said Compton. Mr. Coffield was represented by Michael Coleman.

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