

News Release

For Immediate Release
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Judge Refuses to Lessen Sentence in Felony DUI Case Charleston, S.C.

Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that The Honorable Roger Young, Circuit Court Judge, refused today to lessen the fourteen year sentence previously imposed on James Bryson Munn, DOB 03/14/1994, for Felony Driving Under the Influence. Munn was twenty years old at the time of the fatal car crash that killed seventeen year old Kylie Gillette. Munn and Gillette had both attended James Island Charter High School but did not know each other. Gillette would have been a senior.

On August 15, 2004 at approximately 12:30 pm Kylie Gillette left her home on John's Island to go to the gym. She was seat belted and traveled down River Road. Munn, who had illegally purchased beer the night before, headed in the opposite direction down River Road at speeds including 94 mph 5 seconds before the crash in a 45 mph area. Witnesses indicated that Munn's excessive speed and traveling in the oncoming lane caused them to fear for their safety and to take defensive measures to avoid a collision with him. Munn's blood alcohol content was .217, almost three times the legal limit. Munn had spent the night before at the home of a friend's parents who had a gathering of people over to mourn the death of their son. Drinking occurred at that residence, and Munn brought beer to the event. Munn did not indicate when he stopped drinking from the night before.

Jennifer Kneece Shealy, who prosecuted the case stated that "This case is such a tragedy for both the Gillette family and the Munn family. Kylie Gillette was a smart, kind, loving young girl whose life was unnecessarily ended. Here, we have two young lives devastated by the

decisions made by Munn both the evening before and the morning of the incident. The original sentence of 14 years was appropriate in this matter. Hopefully, others will recognize the consequences of drinking, driving, and causing someone's death. Here, the speed and the high alcohol content proved to be deadly.”

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