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May 4, 2020

Edward Johnson receives a 75 month prison sentence for killing Emma Quinn

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 34-year-old Edward Johnson appeared in court by phone – while in custody – and pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 75 months in prison for causing the death of 33-year-old Emma Quinn with criminal negligence.

Colette Luff, Ms. Quinn’s mother, provided an impact statement that the District Attorney’s Office read during today’s hearing.

“While I appreciate that Mr. Johnson has taken some responsibility for his actions, he has not totally come clean about what happened that day,” Ms. Luff’s impact statement read in part. “The loss of Emma will forever haunt me and others all because of a selfish act, everything has changed.”

Ms. Quinn’s family and friends described her as being a “quietly smart, humbly talented and an authentically kind human being.”

This investigation started when the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office responded to a fatal crash on May 29, 2019 at the intersection of Southeast Kerslake Road and Southeast Stark Street in Troutdale, Oregon.

During this investigation, the East County Major Crash Team spoke with several witnesses and determined that Johnson was traveling at a high rate of speed when he failed to navigate a curve in the road and crashed head-on into a vehicle driven by Ms. Quinn.

As a result of the impact, Ms. Quinn’s vehicle flipped and landed on its roof. She died on scene.

During today’s hearing, Johnson made a sworn statement and admitted that he woke up on May 29, 2019 and consumed a can of malt liquor. Several hours later, he purchased and consumed a second can of malt liquor and then proceeded to drive while intoxicated.

Law enforcement confirmed Johnson’s blood alcohol content was .21%.

Johnson’s two children, both of whom were in the vehicle at the time of the crash, were transported to the hospital. Neither suffered life-threatening injuries but did require medical evaluations and treatment.

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At the time of the crash, Johnson did not have permission from the registered owner to be operating the vehicle.

Johnson pleaded guilty to one count of criminally negligent homicide, one count of unauthorized use of a vehicle, one count of driving under the influence of intoxicants, and one count of assault in the fourth degree.

The court imposed a 75 month prison sentence. Upon release, Johnson will be on 36 months of post-prison supervision.

Restitution in this matter will be resolved within 90 days.

Johnson's driving privileges will be revoked for at least six years. The Oregon Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) will calculate the specific length.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office recognizes Multnomah County Sheriff Deputies Eric Purdell, Kenneth Shipley, Shawn Fitzgerald and Gresham Police Officer Scott McFarland for their dedicated efforts investigating this case.

We also recognize District Attorney Victim Advocate Chanel Thomas for the support, guidance and advocacy she provided the victim's family and friends throughout this case.

A photo of the vehicle Johnson was driving is being included with this press release. The full image is viewable on the District Attorney's FlashAlert Newswire & Messenger page.



COVID-19 Notice

The health and well-being of all employees and community members we serve is a top priority for the Multnomah County District Attorney. Our office is working with the court, defense bar, local law enforcement and other system partners to carefully balance the needs of public health and public safety.

For information about the operational changes implemented by the District Attorney's Office in response to the novel coronavirus, please [click here](#).

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