

LANCASTER MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR FATAL CRASH

On October 18, 2012, Judge Richard Berens sentenced Curtis Dozier to 4 ½ years in prison for an October 2010, alcohol-related crash that took the life of a young woman.

On October 16, 2010, Dozier was driving recklessly on Royalton Road after drinking underage, and thereby crashed his car killing a passenger, eighteen year old Samantha Thompson. Dozier subsequently tested at over twice the permissible legal alcohol limit for drivers under 21 years old.

On August 23, 2012, Dozier plead guilty to one count of Aggravated Vehicular Homicide and one count of Operating a Motor Vehicle After Underage Consumption of Alcohol. At Thursday's sentencing hearing the defense asked the Court to place Dozier on probation, but Fairfield County Assistant Prosecutor Darren Meade argued strenuously to impose a prison sentence due to the severe consequences of Dozier's recklessness, as did assembled family and friends of Samantha Thompson. Judge Berens ultimately agreed in imposing the recommended 4 ½ year prison sentence, in addition to imposing a lifetime suspension of Dozier's driver's license.

Fairfield County Prosecuting Attorney Gregg Marx stated: "Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Samantha Thompson for their loss, and we know no court's ruling can ever bring Samantha back to them. Nevertheless, we are glad the family and friends are satisfied with this sentence, and hope it sends a strong message to the community that anyone who places the lives of their fellow motorists in jeopardy will face the severest of consequences."