

MAN SENTENCED TO 5 MANDATORY YEARS IN PRISON FOR DRUGGED DRIVING CRASH

Bart S. Ramsey, 39 of Pleasantville, was sentenced to a mandatory five years in prison Tuesday for driving under the influence of drugs, and thereby causing a crash that left his passenger without her right arm. Ramsey pleaded guilty Tuesday in front of Fairfield County Common Pleas Judge Richard Berens to Third Degree Felony Tampering with Evidence, Second Degree Felony Aggravated Vehicular Assault, and First Degree Misdemeanor Operating a Motor Vehicle while under the Influence. Judge Berens then sentenced Ramsey to a total of 7 ½ years incarceration, of which he imposed 5 years for the Aggravated Vehicular Assault, and suspended the balance for 5 years probation beginning upon Ramsey's release from prison.

By law, Ramsey will be ineligible for any early release, and must serve his five year sentence in full. Also, as a term of his probation Ramsey will be transferred after prison to a secured in-patient drug treatment facility run by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and Corrections, in which he must successfully complete approximately six months of programming. He also received the maximum 13-year driver's license suspension, and was ordered pay a to \$550 fine plus court costs.

Ramsey was arrested May 22 after the 1993 Ford Ranger he was driving went off the road on Pleasantville Road and struck a pole. His passenger was taken by emergency medical helicopter to Grant Medical Center in Columbus, and subsequently had her arm amputated at the elbow due to injuries sustained in the crash.

Witnesses told officers Ramsey left the scene after the crash. Ramsey eventually returned to the scene and told officers he went to First Baptist Church to call for help. Officers later found a syringe in the vehicle and a prescription bottle belonging to Ramsey at the church. Ramsey told officers he had a suspended license and admitted to using various drugs earlier.

Fairfield County Prosecuting Attorney Gregg Marx stated: "Defendant's full five years prison sentences followed by 6 months of lockdown rehab and 5 years probation is an appropriate sentence, considering the permanent injury suffered by the Victim in this case as a result of Mr. Ramsey's drugged driving. Our office is pleased to have reached an outcome supported by the Victim and her family."

Ramsey was successfully prosecuted due to the investigation of several officers of the Lancaster Police Department. Darren Meade, Chief Assistant for the Fairfield County Prosecutor's Office, argued the case

at sentencing. “The Defendant will have a chance to start over”, Meade said, “but [the Victim] can never regrow her arm.” Meade further stated Ramsey had been placed on probation barely 48 hours before the crash and had a cocktail of different drugs in his system, including methamphetamine, heroin and prescription opiates.

The Victim and her family supported the Prosecutor Office’s resolution of the case, and afterwards stated they are pleased with the sentence.

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Gregg Marx
Prosecuting Attorney