



News Release

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Date: November 17, 2021

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Man Sentenced to 15 Years in Prison after DUI Crash that Killed One and Seriously Injured Three

On July 28, 2021 around 7:41PM, the Wallingford Police Department investigated a fatal car crash in the area of Barnes Road (Route 68) and North Main Street Extension that resulted in the death of 58-year-old Karen Gabriel, serious injuries to three other passengers in her vehicle, and the ultimate arrest of the other car's driver, 25-year-old Nicholas Fairchild of 5241 Durham Road, Guilford, CT. He was charged in violation of 53a-56b- Manslaughter 2nd Degree with a Motor Vehicle, 53a-60d- Assault 2nd Degree with a Motor Vehicle (three counts), 53a-130- Criminal Impersonation, 53a-167a-Interfering with an Officer, 38a-371-Insufficient Automobile Insurance, 14-227(a)- Driving Under the Influence of Drugs and/or Alcohol, 14-222(a)- Reckless Driving, 14-147(c)- Misuse of Plates, 14-215(c)- Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License due to DWI, 14-218a- Traveling Unreasonably Fast, 14-12(a)*- Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle, 14-299- Failure to Obey Control Signal, and 14-100a(c)(1)- Failure to Wear a Seatbelt. Fairchild was arrested on January 12, 2021 by arrest warrant.

On November 16, 2021, Fairchild was sentenced to 15 years in prison as punishment for his crimes committed during the crash. He was sentenced to a total of 25 years, suspended after 15 years served followed by 5 years' probation.

The Wallingford Police Department would like to extend our condolences to the family of Karen Gabriel, and all those whose lives were impacted by her loss. We know that you have waited a long time to see justice run its course, and we are glad that we could play our part. This tragic story shows how dangerous drunk driving truly is, and the wreckage it can leave in its wake. Think before you take a drink and drive.