



PRESS RELEASE

Drunk Driver Sentenced to 14 years in Prison for Fatal Crash

May 20, 2022

Bryan, TX – Colton Bradley pled guilty and was sentenced to 14 years in prison on May 18, 2022, for Manslaughter from a fatal crash in Bryan in 2020.

On Saturday, February 29, 2020, at 4:50 in the morning, Bryan PD officers were sent to East 29th Street and Briarcrest on a major accident. James Ragsdale (27) was removed from the passenger seat of a Camaro. Officers were not able to revive him, and he died from blunt force trauma. Bradley was the driver of the vehicle and sustained multiple injuries. He made several comments about being intoxicated. He failed field sobriety exercises and was arrested.

Officers got a search warrant for the defendant's blood. Three and a half hours after the crash he had a blood alcohol concentration of .131. The legal limit is .08.

Accident reconstruction showed that the defendant was traveling over 70 mph northbound on 29th Street when he ran the red light at Briarcrest. A couple in a pickup were travelling westbound on Briarcrest with a green light when the defendant pulled in front of them. After that collision, the defendant's vehicle crashed into another car that was stopped at the red light. That driver and the couple also sustained injuries and were transported to the hospital. The defendant was charged with three counts of Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon for those individuals and was sentenced to 10 years in prison for each of those charges. The Manslaughter and Assault charges are all 2nd degree felonies with a possible punishment of 2-20 years in prison. All charges also have an affirmative deadly weapon finding, which means he must serve at least half of his sentence before becoming eligible for parole.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Brian Price and Jennifer Hebert.

“This incident exemplifies the horrific consequences that can occur when someone makes the conscious decision to get behind the wheel and drive drunk. Due to the defendant’s actions, he leaves in his wake broken bodies and shattered hearts. The only appropriate response to this callous disregard for the safety of others is a significant prison sentence.”

- Brian Price, Assistant District Attorney

