

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JONESVILLE MAN RECEIVES 10-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR DRUNK DRIVING WRECK

A Jonesville man received a 10-year prison sentence and 5 years probation today after he admitted to driving drunk and causing a wreck that injured a local teen.

Eugene Russell Johnson III, 45, pleaded guilty to felony driving under the influence with great bodily injury. Circuit Judge Mark Hayes issued a 15-year prison sentence that was suspended to the service of 10 years and 5 years probation.

The wreck occurred Feb. 18, 2009 at the intersection of Zion Hill Road and Harrell Drive. Johnson was traveling on Harrell Drive when he disregarded a stop sign and collided with a Honda driven by Kaleigh Summer Taylor, 18. After striking Taylor's vehicle, Johnson's truck collided with the carport of a nearby house. Johnson fled the wreck in his damaged truck and was located a few minutes later in a parking lot across from Jesse Boyd Elementary on Fernwood-Glendale Road. Taylor sustained a knee injury that required surgery. Taylor accumulated about \$34,000 in medical bills.

Johnson was initially charged with second-offense driving under the influence and leaving the scene of an accident with a pedestrian injured. Assistant Solicitor Patrick Anderson upgraded the DUI charge when he learned about the severity of Taylor's injury.

"I'm thankful Ms. Taylor was able to stand in court today," Anderson said. "She could have been hurt much worse as a result of Mr. Johnson's pathetic actions." Johnson's prior criminal history included convictions for criminal domestic violence, grand larceny, fraudulent checks, possession of cocaine and unlawful possession of a weapon.

For more information, contact Murray Glenn at 809-4892.

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