



OFFICE OF THE
STATE'S ATTORNEY
CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND

JAMES A. DELLMYER

State's Attorney for Cecil County, Maryland

Circuit Courthouse • 129 East Main Street, Suite 300 • Elkton, Maryland 21921 • Office: 410-996-5335 • Fax: 410-392-7814

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ELKTON WOMAN SENTENCED TO 30 MONTHS
FOR CRIMINALLY NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER**

ELKTON – On Monday, January 11, 2021, the Honorable Keith A. Baynes of the Cecil County Circuit Court sentenced Kimberly Ann Morgan, (age 31) of Elkton, MD, to 30 months in prison for two counts of Criminally Negligent Manslaughter by Motor Vehicle. Morgan was found guilty of both counts after pleading guilty and submitting upon an agreed statement of facts on October 19, 2020 as part of a binding plea agreement.

A binding plea simply means that the presiding judge agrees ahead of time to the terms of the plea agreement, so that the court cannot exceed or reduce the sentence. Additionally, the judge cannot modify or reduce a defendant's sentence later on without the State's consent.

On October 16, 2018, at approximately 5:34am, Troopers from the Maryland State Police responded to the area of Maryland Route 213 north of Spears Hill Road for the report of a motor vehicle collision with life threatening injuries. The weather was clear and the roadway was dry at the time of the collision, light conditions at that time of day were dark for that time of year.

The collision involved a 2003 Mitsubishi Galant operated by Kimberly Ann Morgan and front seat passenger Caitlyn Susann Little and a 2002 Mazda B3000 operated by Richard Glen Gestewitz, Jr. and front seat passenger Charles Curtis Sutton, Jr. The Mazda was pulling a 2006 Bear Boat Trailer loaded with a John Boat. A 2009 Chevrolet Silverado operated by Kenneth Lewis Haines, Jr. and a 2007 Chevrolet Cobalt operated by Watson Horace Tinch were also involved. The Mitsubishi and Cobalt were traveling northbound on Maryland Route 213, north of Spears Hill Road. The Mazda towing the trailer/boat combination and Silverado were traveling southbound on Maryland Route 213, approaching Spears Hill Road. The Mitsubishi traveled across the double solid yellow median line into the southbound lane and struck the left rear wheel of the Mazda. The Mitsubishi continued north in the southbound lane, striking the trailer and boat, then the Silverado head-on. The Mitsubishi was driven backward across the northbound lane coming to rest on the northbound shoulder and the Silverado came to rest in the southbound lane.

As a result of the Mitsubishi striking the left rear wheel of the Mazda, the wheel detached from the truck, causing the Mazda to rotate counter clockwise and overturn. The trailer/boat separated and traveled off the right side of the southbound lane. The Mazda overturned into the northbound lane, landing on its left side, and continued to rotate and slide before being struck in the roof by the Cobalt. The Mazda came to rest on its left side with the Cobalt at its roof.

Morgan, Little, Gestewitz, and Sutton were trapped in their respective vehicles. Morgan was suffering from life threatening injuries and transported to R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center by Maryland State Police Aviation, Little was suffering from serious injuries and transported to Christiana Hospital by Middletown Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service personnel, Gestewitz suffered injuries not sustainable for human life, and Sutton was able to self-extricate before going into cardiac arrest. Both Gestewitz and Sutton were pronounced deceased on-scene by Cecil County EMS. Haines suffered minor injuries and refused medical treatment on-scene (later to go to Union Hospital). Tinch suffered minor injuries and was transported to Union Hospital by Middletown Fire/EMS. Morgan was transported to UM Shock Trauma where her blood was taken using a standard MSP blood kit. The results of that blood kit would ultimately show her blood was negative for drugs and alcohol at the time of the crash.

Subsequent investigation and license-check revealed Morgan did not have a license issued by Maryland or any other State at the time of the incident. Evidence revealed that she was falling asleep while driving prior to the crash. Morgan told investigators she knew she caused the crash by crossing the double yellow line.

Morgan failed to appear for sentencing on November 30, 2020, without explanation. She was apprehended by officers of the Elkton Police Department on December 11, 2020 during service of an unrelated search and seizure warrant of a house in Hollingsworth Manor. Morgan gave police officers a false name and date of birth when she was initially detained.

At sentencing, Chief Felony Prosecutor, Robert E. Sentman, said that the State was bound to the original sentence that was put on the record on October 19, 2020, and could not ask the Court to increase it based on her failure to appear in November. Sentman said that had it not been a binding plea, the State would have changed its sentencing recommendation today.