

Man Sentenced in Deadly I-71 Crash

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Samuel Sperry, 27, of Cincinnati, Ohio, was sentenced today to 9-12 years in prison by Warren County Common Pleas Court Judge Donald Oda. In September, Sperry was found guilty after a trial to the court of aggravated vehicular homicide, aggravated vehicular assault and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol and/or a drug of abuse.

On April 2, 2023, Sperry crashed into the rear of a car being occupied by 76-year-old Shirley Coletta and her daughter, Patricia Jump. Coletta was declared dead at the scene and Jump sustained serious physical harm. At the time of the collision, Sperry was driving northbound on I-71 at 124 miles per hour. Blood testing proved that Sperry was under the influence of multiple drugs and alcohol at the time -- including being over six-times the legal limit for marihuana.

Fornshell commended Troopers Jacob Kunka and Christopher Krantz of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Kevin Hardman, Victim Witness Coordinator Erika Bourelle, and Legal Assistants Brenda Berry and Jaclyn Zaczek for their work on the case.



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