



OFFICE OF
STATE ATTORNEY
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

October 21, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

William Eddins, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit, announced that on October 20, 2014, Dakota William Crank was sentenced to fifteen years in the Department of Corrections by the Honorable John L. Miller. Crank was sentenced after entering a plea of no contest to Leaving the Scene of a Crash Involving Death and Driving with No Valid driver's License with Careless or Negligent Operation Resulting in Death of Another.

On November 26, 2013, shortly after 6 AM, the Defendant was driving a minivan south on County Road 87A in Santa Rosa County well in excess of the posted 55 mile per hour speed limit. The Victim was stopped at a stop sign at the Intersection of County Road 87A and County Road 191 with his passenger in their Kia sedan. Immediately in front of the Victim's vehicle was an F-150 truck that was also stopped at the stop sign. The Defendant failed to stop his vehicle and crashed into the rear of the Victim's vehicle at a high rate of speed and pushed the Victim's vehicle into the rear of the F-150. The Defendant, without checking on the welfare of the occupants of the vehicles, immediately exited his vehicle and fled from the scene. The Victim suffered serious injuries, was life flighted to Sacred Heart hospital in Pensacola, and succumbed to the injuries he received in the crash on November 29, 2013.

The investigation was conducted by the Florida Highway Patrol with assistance from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Assistant State Attorney Jonathan Schlechter prosecuted the case. For more information, please contact Mr. Schlechter at 651-7260.