



CLARK COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Administration Division

STEVEN B. WOLFSON
District Attorney

200 Lewis Avenue • Las Vegas, NV 89101 • 702-671-2500 • Fax: 702-455-2294 • TTY and/or other relay services: 711

CHRISTOPHER LALLI
Assistant District Attorney

ROBERT DASKAS
Assistant District Attorney

BRIGID J. DUFFY
Assistant District Attorney

KAREN S. CLIFFE
Assistant District Attorney

LISA LOGSDON
County Counsel

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Monica Gutierrez
Clark County District Attorney's Office

Phone: (702) 671-2500
Fax: (702) 868-2415
E-mail: Media@ClarkCountyDA.com

For Immediate Release

DATE: May 10, 2023

RUGGS HEADED TO PRISON AFTER ENTERING GUILTY PLEA TO MOST SERIOUS CHARGE

The Guilty Plea

On May 10, 2023, Defendant Henry Ruggs entered a guilty plea to the most serious charge he faced - - the harshest charge the law allows when a drunk driver kills someone - - *Driving Under the Influence Resulting in Death*. Ruggs admitted that he drove while drunk on November 02, 2021, which caused the senseless and untimely death of Tina Tintor and her beloved dog, Max. Ruggs faces up to 10 years in prison.

“This outcome accomplished our three most important goals: (1) convict Henry Ruggs of the strictest charge allowed by Nevada law for drunk driving; (2) send Henry Ruggs to prison; and (3) eliminate his ability to appeal his conviction and prison sentence,” said District Attorney Steve Wolfson.

The Family

The family of Tina Tintor was involved throughout the entire process. “Tina’s family members are the most important people in this process, and I met with them several times before reaching this resolution,” District Attorney Steve Wolfson said.

The Facts

On November 02, 2021, Henry Ruggs, while under the influence of alcohol and driving more than three times the speed limit, crashed his car into the back of a

May 10, 2023

vehicle driven by Tina Tintor, who tragically lost her life as a result of Ruggs' actions. Ruggs and his passenger were transported to the hospital; therefore, standard field sobriety tests (FSTs) - - tests frequently administered during a DUI investigation to determine if someone is under the influence of alcohol - - could not be conducted on Ruggs. On scene, law enforcement officers applied for a telephonic search warrant to obtain a sample of Ruggs' blood (i.e., they called a judge and received permission to have a nurse draw blood from Ruggs to determine if he had alcohol in his system). The blood draw revealed Ruggs' blood alcohol content (BAC) was .16, twice the legal limit.

The Charges

The Clark County District Attorney's Office charged Ruggs with a number of crimes, including *Driving Under the Influence Resulting In Death*. When someone dies as the result of a drunk driver's actions, this is the most serious charge the law allows. By statute, it carries a 2 - 20 year prison sentence. In this case, the charge was based virtually entirely on the result of the blood draw.

Ruggs also was charged with *Felony Reckless Driving*; this charge was based on his excessive speed and the manner in which he was driving. By statute, this crime carries a 1 - 6 year prison sentence.

Defense Motion to Suppress

In May 2022, defense lawyers filed a *Motion to Suppress Results of Evidentiary Blood Sample Testing*. The defense argued there was insufficient probable cause for a judge to approve the blood draw. This presented a potential legal impediment to the prosecution: If the result of the blood draw was suppressed, there was virtually no other evidence to prove Ruggs was under the influence. Had the suppression motion been granted - - and there was a strong likelihood because no FSTs were performed, and there was no information given to the judge that Ruggs had bloodshot/watery eyes, smelled of alcohol, or had been drinking prior to the crash - - the DUI Death charge would have been dismissed. The only significant charge remaining would have been *Felony Reckless Driving*, which is probationable and carries 1 - 6 years in prison.

"I recognize this outcome is not sufficient to punish Ruggs for the loss the Tintor family has suffered, but there was a legitimate concern that a court would have suppressed the result of the blood draw. We would have lost the felony DUI charge. We couldn't take that chance. This resolution sends Ruggs to prison for up to 10 years on a felony DUI conviction and brings closure to the Tintor family."