



OFFICE OF THE
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COUNTY OF SHASTA

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PRESS RELEASE

DRIVER CHARGED IN TRAFFIC FATALITY

May 28, 2009

Michael Allen Harvey, age 31, has been charged with Vehicular Manslaughter without gross negligence, a misdemeanor; failure to stop at a stop sign, an infraction; and failure to provide evidence of insurance, an infraction, in connection with the death of Julia Rocafort on February 15, 2009.

In the evening of February 15, 2009, Michael Harvey was driving his vehicle with passengers, including children, northbound on Old Oregon Trail. At the intersection of Old Oregon Trail and Oasis Road there are stop signs for the north and southbound traffic only. Julia Rocafort and a passenger were traveling west on Oasis Road. Another vehicle with several occupants was traveling east on Oasis Road. All three vehicles arrived at the intersection at approximately the same time. Mr. Harvey failed to stop at the stop sign causing him to strike both vehicles traveling on Oasis Road. As a result of the collision, Julia Rocafort was killed. Non-life threatening injuries were inflicted on occupants in the other vehicles. Neither alcohol nor drugs were involved in the collision.

The infraction charges carry only fines. The misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter charge carries a maximum of 1 year in county jail and fines. However, Mr. Harvey is currently in Proposition 36 drug treatment for a felony violation of Transportation of a Controlled Substance (methamphetamine) from 6/7/07 and on informal probation for a misdemeanor violation of possessing drug paraphernalia from 3/29/07. Therefore, in addition to the penalties directly associated with the vehicular manslaughter case, Mr. Harvey could face additional penalties because his new offense violates the terms and conditions of his felony probation. If found to be in violation of his felony probation because of the manslaughter case, Mr. Harvey could face up to 16 years in state prison because of numerous drug related convictions that he has suffered in the past.

No arraignment date has been set. Mr. Harvey failed to appear at his last scheduled court appearance on his Proposition 36 drug case on 4/15/09 for which the court issued a bench warrant.

For questions, contact District Attorney Jerry Benito at 245-6310.