



OFFICE OF THE  
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COUNTY OF SHASTA

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**WOMAN ENTERS PLEA TO MISDEMEANOR**  
**VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER**  
**June 30, 2009**

Carrie Lynn Crowell, 38, of Redding, entered a guilty plea today to misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter resulting from a collision occurring on Highway 299 on June 22, 2008. As part of the plea agreement Crowell will be required to complete 300 hours of community service and remain crime free, including traffic infractions, for a period of two years. If Crowell complies with these terms, she will be allowed to withdraw her plea and the case will be dismissed.

On June 22, 2009, Crowell was heading home from a camping trip in Burney, California. The victim, Crowell's 12-year old daughter, was seated in the back seat and was not wearing a seat belt when she was thrown from the vehicle at the time of the collision. The victim died as a result of her injuries from the collision. The victim's friend, a 15-year old female, was also thrown from the vehicle but survived with minor injuries.

Witnesses who arrived on scene moments after the collision report that Crowell was walking around picking prescription pills off the ground. These same witnesses observed Crowell's vehicle traveling at excessive speeds, tailgating and passing vehicles over a double yellow line just prior to the collision occurring. One witness, who reports traveling at or near the posted speed limit, indicated that when his vehicle was passed by Crowell, "I may as well have been parked, is the way it seemed when she passed me."

Crowell had just finished a heated argument on her cell phone when she began reaching into an ice chest for a soda when her car drifted off the road, she then over-corrected causing the car to spin around and tumble down a dirt bank. Crowell's vehicle was found on its roof with moderately loud rock-like music coming from inside.

The agreed upon settlement took into consideration the driving behavior of Ms. Crowell and the fact that she lost her daughter in the collision.

The case was investigated by California Highway Patrol Officer Clark and was prosecuted by Senior Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Bridgett.