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Novato Man Sentenced to Six Years for Vehicular Manslaughter

On April 26, 2011, on the eve of trial, George Edward Malamphy, 58, of Novato, pleaded no contest to vehicular manslaughter, in violation of 191.5(b) of the Penal Code, and was sentenced to four years in state prison. He also admitted to committing the crime while on bail in another matter, which added two years to his sentence. The six year total is the maximum sentence allowed by law.

In the early morning hours of June 1, 2010, Malamphy was driving a borrowed 1996 Buick Regal with passenger Robyn Ring, 43, of Fairfax, on northbound Hwy 101 near Redway when the vehicle left the road and struck a tree. Neither person was wearing a seatbelt.

Malamphy was ejected from the vehicle on impact. Due to damage to the passenger side of the Buick, Ring remained in the car. Though the vehicle caught on fire, the coroner found that Ring died immediately as a result of blunt force trauma sustained in the collision. The defendant tested positive for amphetamines and methamphetamine, which were likely contributing factors in the crash.

This case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Allan Dollison. "The case was very well put together by the California Highway Patrol, and had it not been for their solid investigation, the Defendant would not have accepted responsibility for his actions. When a death is involved there is no way that true justice can be achieved for a victim and their family, but the maximum 6 year prison sentence will give the Defendant plenty of time to ponder the terrible decisions that lead to the death of Robyn Ring," Dollison said.

"My heart goes out to the family and friends of the victim," added Humboldt County District Attorney Paul Gallegos. "It can be difficult to agree on any number of years in prison that will adequately address the tragedy of an avoidable death, but the fact that it *is* a tragedy is undisputed. I hope we all heed the lesson to drive safely and responsibly unimpaired by drugs or alcohol."