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Four year prison sentence for Roane County woman convicted of Vehicular Homicide

Kingston, Tennessee –

On May 29, 2009 Nicole Lawson (at the time 38 years old) was driving her Toyota pickup truck down ‘Rockwood Mountain’ along US Hwy 70 towards the Town of Rockwood. According to witness statements taken by THP officers responding to the scene, Lawson was speeding and driving in a reckless manner, crossing the centerline several times before she crashed her truck head on into a GMC rollback-type truck driven by Gary L. Pugh of Crossville. Even though it appeared that Pugh tried to swerve his truck to avoid the Lawson’s truck, the head-on impact of the crash killed Pugh.

Lawson was subsequently convicted by a Roane County jury of vehicular homicide after a two day trial on August 6th and 7th, 2013 wherein Assistant District Attorney Bill Reedy proved that Lawson was operating her vehicle in a manner that ‘created a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury’ to other persons – conduct that resulted in the death of Gary L. Pugh. The vehicular homicide conviction carried a sentence of 3 to 6 years as a Class C felony.

At a sentencing hearing on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 Roane County Criminal Court Judge E. Eugene Eblen sentenced Nicole Lawson to a four year sentence to be served with the Tennessee Department of Corrections. The sentence was imposed following a hearing during which the deceased victim’s widow and daughter testified about the impact of Pugh’s death. In addition to the four year prison sentence, Lawson’s driving privileges were suspended for ten years, the maximum provided by law.

END OF RELEASE