

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cherokee County Attorney's Office

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**John Joseph Sentenced; Juvenile Driver's Case Dismissed
Following Investigation**

COLUMBUS, Kan.

The Cherokee County Attorney's Office announces that John Joseph has been sentenced following his felony conviction for attempted interference with law enforcement in connection with the fatal accident that claimed the life of Gary LaTurner. Additionally, charges against the juvenile driver involved in the initial collision have been dismissed.

Following an extensive investigation, the Kansas Highway Patrol established that the victim was in the roadway at the time of the collision. The investigation further determined that the juvenile driver was not at fault for the crash itself. Upon impact, the juvenile driver immediately informed his father, John Joseph, of the accident. However, Mr. Joseph prevented his son from taking further action to alert authorities, which constituted criminal interference with law enforcement.

As a result of his actions in preventing proper notification to law enforcement, John Joseph was prosecuted and is now a convicted felon.

While the juvenile driver was not found liable in the collision itself and took the correct initial step of notifying a parent, Mr. Joseph's decision to prevent his son's full disclosure to law enforcement transformed a tragic accident into a criminal matter.

We continue to extend our deepest condolences to Gary LaTurner's family and loved ones during this difficult time.

We commend the Kansas Highway Patrol for their thorough and professional investigation, which established the facts of this case and ensured that justice was served appropriately.